Chinese police illegally detain anti-smoking elders

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Algerian parties urge end to killing

ROME (R) — Senior Algerian opposition figures on Tuesday joined forces to urge an end to the violence that has killed thousands of people since the army cancelled elections and took power in the country in 1992. Speaking at the end of a two-day gathering to discuss the crisis that has killed up to 30,000 people, they demanded the outlawed fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) be included in the political process. Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella called on the government to end the violence he says has pushed the country to the brink of civil war by freeing political prisoners and closing the special tribunals that judge them. "Both sides will have to take steps to calm the simation. But the government has to act first," Mr. Ben Bella said. "It must free political prisoners and accept the FIS as a political forc." added Mr. Ben Bella, Algeria's first president after it won independence from France in 1962. Once that is done, then the FIS and other opposition forces can be called on to make concessions," he added.



DAILY AMMAN - WORLD

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Tuesday destroyed the house of another suicide bomber in

the West Bank town of Qalqilyah (AFP photo)

The Reliable Airline KLIM

Volume 19 Number 5775 AMMAN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 19, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Israeli, Saudi officials hold first meeting

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Israel Radio Tuesday he had held talks in the United States with a Saudi diplomat in the first such encounter between the two countries. Mr. Beilin said had met the unnamed Washington-based diplomat at a gathering of Arab businessmen and diplomats in Aspen, Colorado. "It was the first meeting between an intachi official and a Saudi diplomat," he said. "We mainly discussed the possibil-ity of building an Israeliestinian industrial estate g Erez," on the border be-Israel and the self-rule Strip, he told the radio g an interview from Aspen. This meeting signifies a tange in approach for Saudi Arabia, a key country which ets the tone for the Gulf region," he said. He added: "If Gulf states have recently jegun contacts with Israel, it because Saudi Arabia

Army blows up omber's house

idn't want to stop them."

ALQILYAH (AFP) he Israeli army late Monday lew up the house of the the killed 22 people in an ttack on a bus in Tel Aviv nd. The house belonging to he family of Salah Abdul. Jahim Survey, 27, was desoyed after the supreme out on Thirday threw out in appeal by his relatives. have characters possibility by the Marie and Oct. 19 in a idea he till behind after the har words. last. Nace people lived in e three comed house and e army imposed a curfew i Qalquyah to prevent de-constrations or clashes with e Palestinian population.

cancelled after **記t to Arafat**

KRIS (AFP) — Palestinian der Yasser Arafat has caniled a water contract with a mt. Jerome Monod, remedly called him a "sick n on drugs," Mr. Arafat's promic advisor Gabriel ipon announced here on esday. Mr. Monod, presiat of the water giant ibnaisek des Eaux, reitedly said: "To gain Araagreement for water infication on the Gaza up, I waited for 15 hours, in I was driven through the feets of Tunis at 150 Also know Property and add sometres per hour, to be out and the see to a ever bught before a sick man on who took me in his ms and kissed me on the outh." Mr. Monod's reits were reported Satury by the centre-left daily beration. The remarks re made at a press lunch. Monod signed the 30 million franc (\$6 million) pact on behalf of Lyonpubsidiary Degremont. Banon said: "Yasser at, president of the tstinian Authority, has m instructions to cancel contracts between the estiman Authority and the $\chi_1 \cdots \tau_n$ panies of the Lyonaise . Eaux group chaired by

> LBOURNE (R) - For-U.S. President George h said on Tuesday history show the United States correct in not trying to Iraqi President Saddam sein during the Gulf war 1991. Mr. Bush said the i-led forces had been aufised by the United Nas only to drive Iraq out of Pair, a mission it fulfilled let international law. hat was the role. It wasn't ill him. It wasn't to go in be an occupying power in halad," he told a lunon audience in Melme. The liberating forces
> to powerful it would
> teen easy to roll into but such a move would

. Jerome Monod." The

tract was signed under a

nco-Palestinian bilateral

agreement reached in

Arafat seeks to regain lead as Hamas calls rally

"Since the start of auton-

omy, the Hawks have not

carried weapons until yester-

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat moved Tuesday to regain the initiative in Gaza from Islamic militant rivals who have called a rally for

the end of the week. Mr. Arafat's Fatch faction set up groups to keep track of events across the Gaza Strip, where 16 people died in clashes between Hamas supporters and his Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) police on Friday.

The Fatch monitoring committees were to "act in coordination with the higher leadership to provide it with a clear picture of events" across the Strip, senior Fatch official Diab Al Loh said.

Mr. Arafat has also spoken of the security role to be played by his Fatch faction's armed wing the Hawks, most of whose 200 members joined the 9,000-strong Palestinian police formed after the peace deal with Israel.

launching of Palestinian selfrule, scores of Fateh Hawks turned up with weapons at a huge demonstration Monday in support of Mr. Arafat, The Hawks fired into the air as the Palestine Libera-

For the first time since the

tion Organisation (PLO) leader called on them to ensure security and stability. Mr. Loh insisted Fateh was

not planning to form a sepa-

WASHINGTON (AP) - lion.

port for continued aid to

Israel and potential deploy-

ment of U.S. troops on the

Seeking backing from

other leaders of the

Republican-led Congress that

will be seated in January,

Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin was making the rounds on Capitol Hill. He also was

meeting with Defence Secret-

ary William-Perry, Housing

Secretary Henry Cisneros

and other Clinton administra-

tion officials on a two-day

On Monday, President Bill

Clinton assured Mr. Rabin he

would ask Congress to keep

U.S. aid at the \$3-billion-a-

year level and to approve

new money for an anti-

missile defence system (see

Afterwards, a senior U.S.

official said \$200 million to

\$250 million in previously pledged to the Palestinians in

Gaza would be delivered by

the end of the year. The official, who briefed repor-

ters on condition of anonym-

ity, said other governments

would be urged at a meeting Nov. 29 in Brussels, Belgium, to speed delivery of their

pledges of about \$125 mil-

Golan Heights.

visit herc.

page 12).

day," he said. "We are against the presence of a militia, and we are moving towards peace now. "But if some people use force against the police and innocent people, Fatch and

the Hawks cannot just re-Mr. Arafat had said in his speech at the rally that "I tell our Fatch Hawks we are all for democracy. But we are for the security and stability

of our nation. The Hawks also scrawled graffiti on Gaza City walls, over older slogans from their

rivals in Hamas. "Fatch Hawks and the Palestinian police are the shield of the Palestinian Authority," said one in shiny golden letters.

Hamas, which is opposed to autonomy and demanded that the PLO leader take the blame for Friday's bloodshed, called on its supporters to come out in strength at a rally on Friday.

The demonstration is to be held in memory of a Hamas military chief, Imad Akel, who was killed a year ago by Israeli undercover soldiers, but falls one week after 15 demonstrators were killed in battles with Mr. Arafat's

Dole offers Israel support

MIT. PCITY IO

new technology.

on aid, U.S. troops on Golan

pledge by Mr. Clinton to

bolster Israel's security with

very robust security relationship," Mr. Clinton said

after an 80-minute meeting in

the oval office that centered

on lagging peace talks be-

Mr. Dole, who will become

Senate majority leader. "I

would hope and I would

guess that at this time of great

tension in the Middle East

where we're trying to achieve peace there wouldn't be any

effort to reduce the level of

aid," he said at a meeting

inclined to "work with the

president and the prime

minster" on deploying Amer-

ican troops on the Golan

Heights as part of an interna-

bound to involve an Israeli

withdrwal from the strategic

border area, Mr. Clinton went out of his way at a joint

news conference with Mr.

Rabin to emphasise the Un-

ited States intended "to stand

behind Israel and its secur-

Since an agreement is

Mr. Dole said he would be

Monday with Mr. Rabin.

That view was echoed by

tween Israel and Syria.

'We are going to have a

A Hamas official also slammed the pro-Arafat demonstration, saying: "Organising this rally at a time of con-tinued efforts to defuse tension, and the heavy shooting in the air by Palestinian police and Fateh cadres is a disgusting show of force which prompted our people's

dismay and fury."
Gaza police chief Ghazi
Jabali suggested Tuesday the Hawks would be sent out against Islamic militants in the future.

It's a message to everybody who is trying to corner the authority that if they want to play the game of gangs, we will do the same." Mr. Jabali told the Associated Press.

He apparently was responding to threats by Hamas' armed Izzedine Al Qassam brigades to attack PLO officials if policemen involved in Friday's shooting were not punished.

Praising the Hawks, Mr. Jabali said: "These guys were here before Hamas. These are the fighters of the revolution ... and they went out yesterday to say. 'We are ready to help the police and Arafat, we are ready to protect what has been

(Continued on page 3)

He said he was prepared to

Midlic and Congress for de-

ploving American troops as

part of an international force

But, Mr. Clinton said,

"there has been no agree-

ment of any kind about this.

We are jumping the gun here on this part of it."

Despite Mr. Dole's reas-

surances, keeping aid to Israel at the \$3-billion-a-year

level could run into resistance

as Republicans, who take a

sceptical view of foreign out-

lays, assume control of who

take a sceptical view of fore-

involvements.

foreign aid.

to monitor an accord.

Mr. Rabin's meeting with make a case to the American

gifts to peace negotiators Majesty King Hussein on delegation and committee Tuesday awarded medals members for the great honand royal gifts to chief our King Hussein bestowed Jordanian negotiator Fayez Tarawneh and members of

A Palestinian Islamist covers his face during a Hamas rally

in Gaza City Tuesday with pictures of suicide bomber Hisham Hamad, who killed three Israelis. The Israeli army

the Jordanian delegation and the negotiations committees in appreciation of their efforts during the Jordanian-Israeli peace

Dr. Tarawneh and mem-bers of the delegation thanked King Hussein for his gesture and pledged to remain his "faithful, dedicated and loyal soldiers.' Dr. Tarawneh voiced his

Dr. Tarawneh said: 'Had it not been for the King's wise leadership vision and resolve to establish peace, this achievement would not have been

King awards medals and

He thanked the King for "the peace gift which he gave to the Jordanian people and the future generations on Oct. 26.

peace and doing his utmost to achieve it."

Dr. Tarawneh praised the efforts made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and his directives to the delegation members.

"Prince Hassan has given us the right advice and the moral support," he said. On Monday, King Hussein hosted a lunch at the Basman Palace to honour head and members of the Jordanian delegation and various committees to the peace

Jordan, Israel plan strategy for joint projects

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordanian and Israeli officials on Tuesday held talks at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on how to prepare the ground for discussions on the development of the Jordan Rift Valley as provided for under the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

The officials from the two

sides formed a steering committee which will tackle joint

(Continued on page 3)

Muasher tipped to be Jordan's first ambassador to Israel

By Nermeen Murad \ Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — The Jordanian leadership has chosen Marwan Muasher, who acted as the country's spokesman during Middle East peace negotiations with Israel, as the Kingdom's first ambassador

ign outlays, assume control of Congress. Sending American troops to the Golan Heights to Tel Aviv, sources said on Tuesday. also is bound to conflict with Although the appointment is yet to be formalised and sentiment against overseas announced officially, govern-Israel receives the largest ment sources confirmed that share of U.S. aid and could Dr. Muasher was selected to be hurt by any general reduc-tion. Even if it is not the

head the first diplomatic mis-sion to Israel. Dr. Muasher specific target of critics of would not confirm or deny the news of the appointment. The Arrow anti-missile de-According to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26, the two fence programme is likely to need new U.S. help as it moves from research and decountries would establish divelopment to deployment. It plomatic relations on Nov. 29 is a joint programme to proand open their first embassies tect Israel with a missile that

in Amman and Tel Aviv on Jordan is the second Arab

country to establish diplomatic relations with Israel after Egypt, which reached a peace treaty with Tel Aviv in 1979.

An Israeli delegation was in Amman last week to work out the details involved in the establishing of new ties and reportedly chose a site for the Israeli embassy here. Unconfirmed reports maintain that the Israelis had chosen a temporary base at a building in Jabal Amman, between the Second and Third Circles, until a permanent chancery is built most likely in Abdoun.

A Jordanian delegation is expected to travel to Tel Aviv soon also to discuss its plans for establishing an embassy in that city including choosing a site for the chancery there.

Dr. Muasher, 38, has had several political assignments, during which he had direct contact with Israeli officials and politicians, including that of spokesman and negotiator. since Middle East peace talks were launched in Madrid in Oct. 1991.

A Jordanian official, who confirmed the appointment, told the Jordan Times that Dr. Muasher was chosen by His Majesty King Hussein from a list of candidates for the post "because of his success at earlier assignment and especially as spokesman."

According to the official. Dr. Muasher's talents as promising politician and a born diplomat" as well as his proven record at articulating the Jordanian position when serving as spokesman have been instrumental in his choice as ambassador.

The official said that Dr. Muasher's firsthand experience with the developments in negotiations between Israel and Jordan during the past three years "also means that he has background to deal with all the follow-up



Marwan Muasher work" in the implementation stage of the Jordan-Israel

peace treaty.

Dr. Muasher had also served as director of the Jordan Information Bureau (JIB) in Washington D.C. until February this year and was credited as being the driving force behind the currently high political profile of the office especially in impro-ving the Kingdom's image

(Continued on page 3)

By turning to Fateh, Arafat seen to raise stakes in Gaza

By Lamis K. Andoni

PALESTINE National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat has succeeded to assert his control over Gaza in the aftermath of last Friday's bloodshed, but his muscle flexing has sharpened divisions among the Palestinian people.

Even if a reconciliation agreement is reached between the PNA and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, seeds of perpetual friction have been planted as the Gaza Strip is sharply polarised between

Hamas and Fatch. Mr. Arafat's critics argue that he is trying to weaken the opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian agreements and the PNA's shortcomings, by portraying its agenda as one aimed at winning its power struggle

There is now concern in Gaza that the PNA will

political expressions of protests and that Mr. Arafat will depend on Fatch activists to enforce his orders.

step up its restrictions of

Gazan personalities, who have been trying to contain the crisis, are particularly alarmed by the continuing escalation of incitement between Hamas and Fatch, which Mr. Arafat has successfully mobilised to counter the opposition.

"It is boiling down to a showdown between Fateh and Hamas, and both Arafat and Hamas leaders are responsible," said a respected Gazan. In one of its leaflet Fatch

called on its members and supporters to stay on con-stant alert, armed and guard the PNA buildings in a language that amounts to waging a war against Hamas which has also been using the same combat rhetoric in its leaflets.

Fateh and Hamas leaders

meanwhile continue to exchange accusations about who was responsible for Friday's violence at the Palestine Mosque in Gaza.

shoots down incoming mis-

The recently whitewashed walls of Gaza are now splashed with Hamas and Fateh graffti vowing vengeance. Fateh slogans are signed by deliberately intimidating new name, "Ma-janin Fateh," (Fateh madmen), while Hamas slogans are signed by its armed wing, Izzeddin Al Qassam.

Independent personalities in Gaza are particularly critical of the way that Mr. Arafat used local Fateh leaders to organise a huge rally on Monday, that has reinforced an already wide-spread perception that the PNA is monopolised by Fateh.

"Why is Arafat doing this? Is he trying to assert himself as the leader of one faction and not all the Palestinian people?" asked

one personality who has been involved in mediation efforts.

Fatch organisations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that seemed to be splintered before the clashes swiftly united to side by the PNA.

ANALYSIS

As a result, any future friction could trigger an allout confrontation between Fateh and Hamas supporters, with the PNA police and security siding with the former, political activists in Gaza and the West Bank

Local political leaders in the West Bank and Gaza, contacted by the Jordan Times said they were ex-tremely worried how Mr. Arafat was able to transform the political differences over the peace accords into a deadly power struggle between Hamas and Fateh.

Fateh leaflets accused Hamas and Islamic Jihad of staging a conspiracy to undermine and control the PNA. But, according to eyewit-nesses, Palestinian police

had controlled the rooftops surrounding the mosque on Friday and immediately tried to stop the demonstration by confiscating loud-speakers. Other groups, such as the Demo-cratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), were taking part in the protest march to call on the PNA to release Islamic

The police intervention, sparked riots that spread to other parts of Gaza and protesters surrounded Mr. Arafat's beachfront headquarters and other PNA buildings.

Fateh leaflets say that protesters tried to attack other PNA building and even broke down the front fence of Mr. Arafat's head-quarters — known as Al Saraya — and insist that is

was premeditated action. The leaflets accused Hamas of killing eight Fateh activists during the riots inside and outside the

Three Palestinian personalities who were contacted by the Jordan Times and who have visited at least 12 houses of the families of the victims said that none of the relatives have charged Hamas.
"The families are blam-

Palestinian leader in Gaza. So far Fateh's claims have not been proved, especially that the funerals

ing the police and Arafat

were predominantly attended by Hamas, Islamic Jihad supporters and other opposition groups.
Prominent Palestinian leader Haidar Abdul Shafi had to intercede with Arafat personally Friday night to ensure that Palestinian. police and security remained in their posts to

prevent clashes with the

mourners on Saturday.

But independent observers are also blaming Hamas for stepping up the personal attacks against Mr. Arafat and Fateh. "It is a power struggle of who dominates Gaza at the expense of national unity and the struggle against the Israeli occupation," said one observer.

Local Fatch leaders in Gaza said that they view Hamas' threat as a direct challenge to Fatch's influ-ence. "We are going to show them their real size." said one Fatch activist.

Mr. Arafat turned to (Continued on page 3)



CHESS TIME: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein and the president of the Jordanian Chess Federation, Tuesday hosts a lunch in honour of participants in the Arab Chess Tournament which concluded earlier in Irbid. Fourteen

Arab countries participated in the champiouship. The lunch was attended by Youth Minister Fawwaz Abul Ghanam and Yarmouk University President Marwan Kamal (Petra

Rahim told Reuters that Isla-

mic pragmatists were margi-

nalised after the clashes and

"hardliners succeeded in win-

"We recently had a dia-

logue with Hamas moder-

ates, but hardliners sought

escalation of tension between

Hamas and the authority

when they felt they were los-

ing influence on grassroots to moderates." Mr. Abdul

Sources close to Hamas

said its activists were talking

about revenge for Friday's deaths and a hit list of mem-

bers of the Palestinian police

But one Islamic leader,

Hamed Al Bitawi, said the

bloodshed should spur those

in favour of a dialogue with

the authority to "push harder

in order to end inter-

The sudden emergence of

the Talibs also coincides with

a renewal of Pakistani activ-

ity in southern Afghanistan,

including the despatch of a

medical supply convoy from

Quetta, Pakistan, to Turk-menistan in Central Asia.

30 trucks and was under the

command of a Pakistani sec-

ret service colonel, was stop-

ped by two local factional

commanders and the drivers

arrested, only to be freed

does support the Talib stu-

dent movement, it is still un-

clear what control Islamabad

One Talib leader, Haji

Ghous, said Pakistan should

deal with the Afghans as

dibility in Afghanistan, they

will quickly understand that it

is not in their interest to be a

Pakistani puppet," a diplo-

"If the Talibs achieve cre-

But, if indeed Pakistan

later by the Talibs.

has over it.

mat said.

The convoy, comprised to

and administration.

Rahim said.

achieved.

ning over grassroots."

'weakened' Islamic moderates Gaza clash

Mystery students upset Afghan political balance

GAZA (R) — The recent inter-Palestinian fighting in Gaza has weakened Islamic moderates who had been drawing popular support away from militants opposed to dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Palestinian officials said on Monday.

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"The militants won this round of the game, but it won't last," said Ahmad Nasser, an official in PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction.

Islamists said the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements made up of independent political and military wings, included officials who had pushed for moderation and pragmatism in dealings with Mr. Arafat.

The Islamists said voices of moderation had been winning some grassroots support after Israel's transfer of Gaza

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - A

hitherto unknown group of

"religious students" is upset-

ting the traditional balance of

power in southern Afghanis-

tan and is fast garnering sup-

port among the war-weary

The Talibs, who appear to

look to Pakistan for political

inspiration, took control of

the former royal capital of

Kandahar after ousting the

long-standing commanders

The group then began

advancing towards Helmand,

a thriving opium production

area, and to Zabul province

further to the north, accord-

diplomatic sources.

month ago.

ing to several Afghan and

of factional fighting between

local commanders, has wel-

comed the new group which

nobody had heard of just one

Diplomatic sources say the

Talibs number about 2,000

and are ideologically moti-

vated, well armed and

The Guardian

A FILM based on the biblical

figure Joseph is the latest

focus of the battle between

secular intellectuals and con-

servative Muslims in Egypt.

stitution, Al Azhar, has de-

clared that the film, Al-

Muhaier (The Emigrant).

must be withdrawn from

cinemas because of its "anti-

Islamic" depiction of the

Yussef Shahine, is being sued

The director of the film

prophet Joseph. or Yussef.

Egypt's highest Islamic in-

The Afghan people, tired

there.

population of the area.

Jericho to Palestinian selfrule last May. But the deaths of 16 people

in clashes on Friday between Palestinian police and protesters, mainly Hamas supporters, weakened moderates and re-ignited militancy within the groups, the Islamists

Sayed Abu Musameh, a leading Hamas figure in Gaza, said: "Now is not the time to talkk about a dialogue with Arafat's Palestinian self-rule authority."

"No doubt behaviour on Friday increased tensions among the youths in the Islamic movement, and among people," he said, but added: The movement's policy is not to reach a civil war."

Leaders of the Islamic opposition, headed by Hamas, denied reports they

funded, and with a declared

goal of rescuing the region

from the anarchy which fol-

lowed the collapse of the

communist government in

The group has launched a

programme to spread Islam

to regions under their con-

trol, a move which could

potentially lead them into

direct conflict with Akhund-

zadah Ghafar, a major drug

baron who rules Helmand.

Diplomats and analysts say

there is little doubt that the

students have Pakistan's

backing, despite the fact that

Islamabad maintains it has no

intention of becoming in-

volved in the internal affairs

Pakistan has repeatedly de-

clared itself neutral in the

bloody civil war raging be-

tween rival Afghan factions,

which has claimed more than

7,000 lives in the capital

Kabul since the start of the

Many of the Talibs, whose

by a lawyer, Mahmoud Abou

al-Faid, who argues that the

film defames Egypt because

it gives the impression of

Jewish supremacy over the

Mr. al-Faid, "and Yussef

Mr. Shahine expresses sur-

prise at the criticism. "I am

against Israel. They ask me to

visit there but I never go.

How can there be peace

while they dominate us with

their nuclear weapons?" he

The film, which is drawing

Shahine is a Zionist."

"The film is Zionist." said

country.

Islamists sue director of Egyptian film about Joseph

brand-new Kalashnikov

of Afghanistan.

and the West bank enclave of had agreed to enter a 20strong fact-finding mission the Palestinian Authority is setting up to investigate the

> "What we fear is that things will get out of hand. Until now we have no agreement and we are not responsible if something happens," said Imad Al Falluji, a Hamas leader.

"It is difficult to ask people to put behind suffering of 27 years of (Israeli) occupation," said Ala Al Saftawi, a leading figure in the Islamic

"When the authority arrived, they were prepared to forget - they hoped things would change. But people reacted to the authority on Friday as they did with occupation armies," Mr. Saftawi said.

PLO official Tayeb Abdul Palestinian fighting."

assault rifles are the envoy of

the tattered mujahadeen

fighters, have studied at spe-

cial Koranic schools in Pakis-

tan, the diplomats and

Some of the Talibs may

come from the Pashtun

ethnic minority in Pakistan,

and cannot be told apart from

the Afghan Pashtuns, the

Rumours of Pakistani in-

fluence in the area have be-

come so persistent that the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in

Islamabad strongly denied

any Pakistani military in-

volvement in the clashes

which led to the Talibs taking

Whatever the truth, one

certainty is that the Talibs

and Pakistanis both have the

same vested interests in

seeing peace come to south-

Without stability in the re-

gion, Islamabad's declared

goal of opening up a trading

route to central Asia via Kan-

dahar and Herat, cannot be

analysts said.

sources claim.

Kandahar.

ern Afghanistan.

Rich Iranian charity may come under probe

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian parliament is gathering evidence for a possible investigation into the operations of a rich foundation, which has been acting more as an investment empire than a charity for the poor. Tehran press

The Islamic Republic News Agency quoted the daily newspaper Salaam as saying parliament was still compiling complaints of mismanagement and corruption made against the Bonyad Mostazafan Va Janbazan.

The charity, whose name in Farsi means foundation for the disabled and the deprived, is charged with caring for the poor and war veteans disabled in the 1980-88 conflict with Iraq.

Bonyad Mostazafan has been blamed for causing many of the distortions in Iran's faltering economy.

Answerable to no one but

Iran's spiritual leader, it has for more than a decade operated with impunity. It has been allowed to keep

money-losing enterprises running, passing losses on to the government, which had to foot huge subsidy bills for raw materials imported from abroad.

In the past, it also made a killing by buying subsidised hard currency, importing goods, and selling them at inflated prices. It pocketed the profits, and the govern-ment was left with the subsidy bills.

But in the bleak economic climate now descending on the country. Bonyad Mostazafan's activities may be coming under closer scrutiny amid government fears that worsening conditions could unleash social unrest.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani has announced a war on inflation, unofficially estimated to be running at 60 per cent, and has thretened profiteers with heavy fines and jail sentences.

After the 1979 Islamic revolution, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had the wealth of the deposed monarchy and its cronies confiscated and given to the Bonvad Mostazafan. But the organisation has since been enriching itself further by continuing to confiscate private properties and assets on various pretexts.

In the courts, no one dared stand up to the foundation. whose possessions include everything from the old Coca-Cola bottling plant to a string of luxury hotels and even property on New York's Fifth Avenue.

Its managing director, Moshen Rafiqdoust, is a high-school graduate who rose to prominence as Ayatollah Khomeini's driver. He now controls a \$4 billion empire which owns some 1,200 companies, and is brother-in-law of President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani.

Before being appointed head of Bonyad Mostazafan in 1989, Mr. Rafiqdoust was minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. He was accused of corruption and embezzlement after the disappearance of tens of millions of dollars meant for arms purchases during the war with Iraq.



suit' comes out of the water as a tourist gets

ready to dive into the Red Sea in Sharm Al Warning labels on mini-skirts in Egy

CAIRO (AFP) - Some Egyptian shops have begun selling clothing and jewellery with warnings to ensure customers wear them without offending Islamic traditions of modesty.

"These clothes are only to be worn at home and should in no case be worn to go out in," declared a label attached to mini-skirts and other clothes made in stretch fabrics on sale in a Cairo shop.

The garments were sold in unmarked plastic coverings to conceal the identity of the manufacturer and the trader said he had bought them from a sales-rep.

It is a sign of the increasing

daily life of Egyptians. already demonstrated by the growing number of women and girls wearing the veil. "This 'advice' has a stronger impact than an open

influence of Islam on the

warning from a sheikh or other religious leader," Egyptian sociologist Samiha Hassan told AFP.

"Since the author's identity is not known, it creates an atmosphere of fear as you don't know where the punishment will come from. Whether it will be in the corner of a dark alley where a bearded man is hiding, or whether it will be divine

punishment," she added.

street Kasr Al Nil who has sold trinkets for the past 40 years, has hung up a similar warning in recent months. "I am not responsible for

any woman adorning herself with such finery to attract the attention of a man other than her husband," says a poster he has stuck in his shop window displaying a tantalising array of jewels with which to adom the veil. Meanwhile the emergency

of the "Islamic swimsuit," although still rare in smart clubs or beaches, has created a sensation at some resorts. An all-in-one made in lycra, the suit moulds to its wearer showing off every curve or roll of flesh.

To top it off the swimmer is crowned with a veil attached

to her bathing cap.

Even on the catwalks, models show off the latest minis and skin-tight fashions accompanied by a commentary from the presenter warning "of course this style does not fit in with our eastern traditions."

Sportsmen rarely wear shorts during competitions.

preferring instead to cover up their legs. Egyptian basketball cham-

pion Medhat Warda defied

competition rules to wear

shorts which covered A trader in the city's main knees during an interpart match in Cairo at the 1990 He triumphantly greef.

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U d

dished a copy of the i Koran, when Egypt was championship. "If we championship. "If we lost, it would have he slap in the face to commented the author F Foda. Foda, an outspokers

of the growing influen Islam on daily life, wa nounced as a clasphene murdered by members outlawed Al Gamaa M miyah in June 1992.

Earlier this mon woman refused to ship hand of President I Mubarak when he 🕶 inspect the chaos cause floods in southern saying she would not the hand of any man her husband.

On Friday during i with a sheikh, one wanted to know if a indecent to sit down chair still warm from

vious male occupant. Muslim militants ledb Gamaa have been b since March 1992 Mr. Mubarak's godin in a campaign which be far cost 500 lives.

Islamic leader spurs Kurds to hate West

VAN, Turkey (R) -- Turkish Islamic party leader Necmettin Ebrakan, whose Refah Party leads the government in opinion polls, told Kurdish audiences Monday he would save the world from European infidels" once in power.

The charismatic leader of the right-wing Refah or Islamic Prosperity Party has been visiting Kurdish regions in east and south-east Turkey since Nov. 18, as part of a campaign for parliamentary by-elections that were to have been held next month.

The supreme court last week forced a postponement amid opposition complaints of gerrymandering.

Billed as "the hope of all Muslims" and "the leader the world is waiting for," Mr. Erbakan told Kurds to defend their land from imperial-Sixty-eight-year-old Erba-

kan hailed the thousands of Kurds present as "descendants of Saladdin," the Kurdish sultan who expelled

Christian crusaders, He told them to overthrow

the "system of slavery imposed by the imitators of the West, the enemy of Islam" and to free Jerusalem, Bosnia and Azerbaijan, in marked contrast to the the conciliatory and reassuring tone he adopted on a visit to the United States in October. Mr. Erbakan said the

"Western poiltical system in Turkey was in a state of collapse, and criticised its evisaged membership of the European Union (EU) as a divorce from the Islamic World and integration in to that of the "infidels."

Criticising Turkev's siphoning of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which affects Syria and Iraq. Mr. Ebrakan said "Prime Minister Tansu Ciller is depriving our Muslim neighbours of water and giving it to Israel at America's request."

Mr. Erbakan's tour was planned before the postpone-

14:20 Algiers (A11) 14:35 ... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)

20:20 Berrut (ME) 23:05 Athens (AO)

23:20 Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

...... Ayaba (R1)

DEPARTURES

Yemen (1Y) Jeddah (SV)

ment of Dec. 3 by-elec

in 22 parliamentarty see

of which lie in Kurdisha

In March's municipal tions Refah took 23 out town councils, among Istanbul and Ankara, and cluding 12 of the 18 km strongholds. With 20 per cent of vote, it came in nation

behind the two other kee right-wing parties, opposition Motherland and Ms. Ciller's True Party, which leads the n right-left coalition. According to recent

published in the press, Re is the most popular part Turkey, with 22.8 pg cahead of the Motherland ty with 15.9 per cent and True Path Party with 14.51 cent.

Speaking in Angel I mirel said Monday th "widening Europe is avoidable and we think?" include Turkey too."

15:45 Aim Phalo, Karago P 00:20 Austentin kt 02:40 Athensi

HUAZ RAILWA

Pep. Amman Kittia in excilition Arr. Damiseus Milip in every Milip Dep. Damiseus Milip in every Milip Arr. Amman ... Soul pion every Seri

MARKET PRICES

TRAIN .

Athens

JORDAN TELEVISION

4	
	MME TWO
	Tac-Ti
	Les Trevers Du Mone
	News in French
19:45	E=M
1 19:30	Coac
20:30	Ouantum Lea
ZI:10	Snowy Rivi
22:00	News in Englis
22:20	Рงโปลเ
23:10	Coming of Ag

	PRAYER TIMES
1	04:45
- 1	06:05 (Sunrise) D
1	11:22 Di
	14:14
1	16:38 Magi
- 1	17-70

CHURCHES

Mary of Nagareth Church

ublies of God Church, Tel. ph Church Tel. 624590.

uscta Church Tcl: 622366 Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 77(33). an Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephralm Church Tel. 771751. 652526. gelical Lutheran Church Tel:

gregation Tel: 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Tel. XI 1295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

Temperatures will drop significantly with rainfall expected in all parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be partly cloudy and winds southwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance of showers. Winds will be southerly active and

Min/Max. temp.

another opportunity for conservative Muslims to attack secular opponents through the courts. In August, a group of

huge crowds, is seen as

lawyers, led by Yussef al-Badri, sued several Cairo cinemas for displaying film posters featuring scantily-

clad women. Opposition newspapers. headed by the Islamist Al Shaab, have called on the courts to rule against the film, whose story bears more than a passing resemblance to

that of Joseph, which is told

in the Koran as well as the Bible.

Mr. Shahine claims the story is autobiographical. Like the protagonist Ram. the film maker emigrated, to study film in the United States. Ram, whose name was Joseph in the original script submitted to the censor three years ago, emigrates to learn about agriculture in

For 15 years I've dreamed about making a film like this." Mr. Shahine said. "It's about how I succeed after leaving this country."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15 Aquba 23, Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN:

Dr. Kalıb Zailoun	. SYSTEM
Dr. Jihad Zyadeh	. 881148
Firas pharmacy	. 661912
Ferdows pharmacy	. 778336
Al Asema pharmacy	. 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	. ለሷያለ72
Al Salum pharmacy	. 636730
Yacoub pharmacy	
Shrncisani pharmacy	. 6376NH
Nairoujh pharmacy	. 623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID: Dr. Ali Al Omari Al Quds pharmacy	. 272032
ZARQA: Dr. Yahya Tarifi Khuliteh pharmacy	. 9815 <u>3</u> 0 . 985417

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111

C 1 D .	
Civil Detence Immediate	Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn
Rescue	6H2XI/6
Civil Defence Emergency 199	Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	642441/2
Fire Brigade 617[0]	Jahal Amman Maternity 642362
Blood Bank 775121	Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Highway Police \$43402	Palestine, Shmeisani t64171/4
Traffic Police 896390	
Public Security Department 630321	Shmcisani Hospital 669131
Votal Complement August	University Hospital 845845
Hotel Complaints 6158(a)	Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
Price Complaints 661176	The Islamic. Abdali 666127/37
water and Sewerage	Al-Ahli, Abdali 661164/6
Water and Sewerage Complaints	Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Amman Municipality	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Complaints 787[1]	Army.\$Marka 891611/15
_	Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Telephone Information	Amal Hospital
(directory assistance) 121	
Overseas Calls	ZARQA:
Central Amman Telephone	Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Repairs	Zarga National Hospital
	(09)90560
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101	Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Jordan Television	Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09/940490)
Radio Jordan 774111	THE PROPERTY COSPILL (ALLEGE INC.)
Water Authority 680 [101	(RBID:
Jordan Electricity Authority	Original De annotation and Application

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HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre \$13813-32

845845 67227/9 6127/37 64164/6 77101/3 21611/15 12240/50 . 674155 1483323)YXX560 986732 (02)275555 Princess Basma Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Ihn Al Nafees Hospital (02)272275 . (03)314(11

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA**

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Jeddah (RJ) Dubai. Abu Dhahi (RJ) 09:05 . . Lamaca (RJ) 15:00 Amsterdam. New York (RJ) 16:15 London (RI) 17:55 ... Brussels, Vienna (RJ) 18:10Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ) Toronto, Montreal (RJ) Beirut (RJ) Cairo (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

19:35 Berrut (RJ) 19:40 Aqaba, Carro (RJ) 20:00 Riyadh (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Beirut (ME) Larnaca (C'Y) ... Jeddah (SV) ···· Abu Dhabi (GF

Banana (Mukammar) ... Cabbage Carry Cauliflower Cautimeer
Clamentine
Cucumbers (large)
Cucumbers (small) EgepLant ... Grape Fruit Lemon Marrow (large)... Marrow (small) Olive Lercent ... Union (green) Omon (dry) Orange Pepper (hot) Spinach Tumato





BIDDING FAREWELL: Minister of In- informational and cultural fields and upformation Jawad Anani bids farewell to date a 1981 cultural agreement which Qatari Minister of Information and Cul- provides for cooperation in radio, televiture Hamad Kuwari Tuesday as he and sion, exchange of news and programmes his accompanying delegation concluded a as well as publications, and cooperation several-day official visit to Jordan. Dur- between the national news agencies of the ing the visit Dr. Kuwari was received by two countries. Dr. Kuwari and his delega-His Majesty King Hussein and held talks tion were seen off at Marka Airport by with government officials. The talks cul- Dr. Anani and senior officials (Petra minated in the signing of new protocols to photo)
advance Jordanian-Qatari cooperation in

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Lebanon Fawwaz Abu Ghanam and other officials on

means of enhancing bilateral relations in the AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hus-sports and youth fields. sein Tuesday sent a cable to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, congratulating him on his NAF helps 30,023 families since 1986 country's independence day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the

Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamed Al income for the poor, with a view to ensuring Ghabed, praising Jordan's efforts to serve self-reliance. Arab and Islamic causes, including the Palestine question, the holy city of Jerusalem, workshop on refugee protection starts enhancing Islamic solidarity and providing support to the OIC. Mr. Ghabed thanked Dr. AOABA (Petra) — A two-day workshop of Majali for the hospitality accorded to him during the round table conference on the human dimensions of the Middle East peace process, which was held here on Nov. 12, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and organised by the Institute of Democracy.

Trade minister heads for Brussels talks

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Tuesday left for Brussels to join a Jordanian economic delegation headed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The delegation will hold economic Business delegation to travel to Baghdad talks with Belgian officials on means of

Qatari sports official to arrive

Mr. Jabali did not say how he would use the Hawks, who

used to fight Israeli soldiers,

but were pushed to the side-

lines when self-rule began in

May and Palestinian police

Hisham Abdul Razeq, a

leading Fateh official, said

Fatch would no longer leave

the street to Hamas. If

Hamas demonstrators rallied

against Mr. Arafat, Fatch

apporters would be sent out

(Arafat) that Fateh can have

Mr. Abdul Razeq said.

s a counter demonstration,

"We told Abu Ammar

took over.

(Continued from page 1)

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund Lebanese people further progress and (NAF) has granted JD 6,293,129 in cash prosperity.

(NAF) has granted JD 6,293,129 in cash prosperity. lishment in 1986, according to Ministry of OIC chief sends cable to Majali Social Development Secretary General Suleiman Rousan. The fund was established upon AMMAN (Petra) - Prime Minister Abdul the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to Salam Majali Tuesday received a cable from help poor families through cash assistance and Secretary General of the Organisation of rehabilitation projects aimed at generating

AQABA (Petra) - A two-day workshop on protection of refugees and the United Nations role in ensuring their protection started here Tuesday. The workshop, organised by the High Commissioner for Refugees, seeks to promote awareness on ways of protecting refugees, the refugees' rights and possibility of their integration in the host countries. Taking part in the workshop are 25 people from the ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, Amnesty International, Jordan Red Crescent Society and representatives of the

enhancing economic cooperation between both countries.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian business delegation, headed by Jordanian Business men's Association President Hamdi Tabbaa Saturday leaves for Baghdad on a four-day visit to Iraq for talks on promoting economic AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Qatari and trade cooperation. The delegation will Youth and Sports Corporation Sheikh meet with Iraqi Minister of Trade Mohammad Mohammad Ben Eid Al Thani Saturday Mahdi Saleh, Secretary General of the Fedarrives here at the head of a Qatari delegation eration of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce on a four-day official visit to Jordan. Sheikh Faleh Ali Saleh and representatives of Iraqi Al Thani will hold talks with Youth Minister industrial and commercial companies.

preparation for winter

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Traffic Department is now three days into its annual campaign to check vehicles in preparation for winter, targeting more than 350,000 motor vehicles in the Kingdom in an effort to minimise road accidents, particularly when weather conditions can create dangerous situations.

Traffic officials are checking whether vehicle tyres are in good condition, windshield wipers are functioning properly and wind-shield water containers are filled: breaks are working, signal and licence plate lights are functioning; plate numbers are clear and legal: and whether the back cover of pickup trucks are securely fastened.

According to recent numbers provided by the Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, (SPRA), last year's 24,799 road accidents claimed the lives of 440 persons and left 11,745 injured.

Furthermore, the num-bers revealed that in the past five years, 1,950 peo-ple were killed in road acci-Annually, more than 400

people are killed on Jordan's roads, PSD numbers showed. A Public Security De-

partment (PSD) official said that no fines will be

issued to violators. Instead he said police units will seize vehicle licences of violators for one week, and "if the car owner does not fix the malfunction within a week, then we will issue him/her a fine.'

"Our aim in this annual campaign is to insure the safety of all vehicles, not to penalise motorists," the PSD official told the Jordan Times.

Moreover, the official said, motor vehicles that pass the inspection will be issued an orange sticker to be afixed to the windsheild so that it is not pulled over again by other inspection

He was quick to point out that officials will continue to look for other violations as well, including failure to wear seat belts fuel emissions from vehi-cles causing pollution, wrongful overtaking, speeding, and not carrying a valid drivers licence, and other standard violations.

The PSD official said the first three days of inspec-tion revealed that "most vehicles were well maintained.

He added that very few licences were seized, but would not release any figures.

Meanwhile, PSD reports indicated that 91 road accidents occurred Monday, leaving 22 citizens in critic-

WHAT'S GOING ON

☆ Film entitled "Yes, Prime Minister" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

☆ Poetry recital by Mohammad Al Ameri at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art At 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Mahir Samarrai at Alia Art Gallery.
- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Najwa Annab at the Orfali Art Ceramics exhibition by Sa'id Al 'Ani at the Phoenix
- Gallery for Culture and Art. Also showing a paintings exhibition by Husni Abu Karim. ★ Exhibition on human international law entitled "Drawings from Arab Calligraphy" at the Royal Cultural
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.
- ☆ Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Annie Sakkab at the French Cultural

Jordan, Israel plan strategy Dr. Haddadin.

(Continued from page 1) schemes in the valley, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

by Atallah Zabaneh

Munther Haddadin, who heads the Jordanian side to the steering meeting, said in a statement after the first session that the committee approved of the manner in which Jordan and Israel would approach the European Union (EU) at a meeting to be held soon with EU officials to request financing of joint Jordanian-Israeli schemes in the Jordan Val-

The two sides also agreed plenary committee and on prevaring for terms of reference for the committee's work on the development of the Gulf of Aqaba for tourist purposes and for allowing other parties like Egypt to be involved in the development of the Agaba coast for tourism purposes, according to

Mr. Odin Afran from the Israeli foreign ministry, who heads the Israeli side, said that the Jordan Valley region would witness major development through projects in which the private sector would have a key role. Mr. Afran said that the two

sides set up sub-committees to deal with technical and financial matters related to the proposed schemes in the Jordan Valley.

Meanwhile the Jordanian-Israeli transport committee met Tuesday at Aqaba's Cor-al Beach Hotel and discussed cooperation in aviation and the air corridor between the two countries.

The committee, meeting under the co-chairmanship of Director General of the Ports Corporation Dureid Mahasneh and the Israeli deputy transport minister, also dwelt on marine transport and tourism. The committee will resume its meeting Wednesday.

Clinton ready

(Continued from page 12)

fore, of the U.S. commitment.'

The two leaders agreed that "greater attention" should be paid to the problem of "terrorism" funded by Iran. The official said there was a discussion of Mr. Clinton's reaffirmation of the \$3,000 million in U.S. assistance to Israel and of the Arrow missile, which is presently in the research and development stage. The official sidesteped efforts to pin down the cost of U.S. participation in the jointly funded

project, which he said is

aimed at providing Israel pro-

tection against ballistic mis-

Muasher

among U.S. officials and particularly the Congress. Due to the success of the JIB experiment in Washington, a similar office was later established in London.

his government career as cabinet spokesman in 1989. during the Kingdom's first free parliamentary elections, settled back in Jordan earlier this year with plans to begin preparations to run as a candidate in the next parliamentary elections in 1997.

His appointment to the embassy in Tel Aviv came as a surprise to many who were aware of his intention to become active on the local political front e

Police inspect vehicle in Investment window' to open to facilitate red tape —ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade Investment Encouragement Department will open what it called "an investment window" on Dec. 1 to facilitate procedures for investors in the Kingdom.

Department Director Asem Hindawi, who made the announcement Tuesday, said that officials at the new section would handle all the required formalities and procedures at the various government departments on behalf of the investors and to save them the trouble of conducting the business them-

The investment window. said Mr. Hindawi, would mean that investors would be dealing with only government department, and the service is to be free of charge.

Mr. Hindawi also

announced that the department would soon publish, in Arabic, French and English. the requirements and conditions requested by the department from investors in different economic projects.
The department will

cooperate with the private economic consultancy services in conducting a survey

of all the potential areas for the investment in the Kingdom which would then be made available to investors.

Investments in Jordan between July and September comprised 26 projects involving a total capital of nearly JD 33 million and which created 2,075 new jobs, Mr. Hindawi said.

He said all the investors were either Jordanians or Jordainans in partnership with Arab and foreign country nationals, adding that these projects included no

Business reply services to be made available — ministry

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Post and Communications has announced that as of Jan. 1, 1995, International Business Reply Services (IBRS) will be available in Jordan to all businesses as well as businesses abroad soliciting the Jordanian market.

The service works in the same manner as domestic business reply mail in the U.S. and Europe where companies, advertisers and marketers enclose a prepared reply item to consumers or other businesses as an incentive to respond to mail in-

Although the service has been available in 42 countries worldwide since 1990. Jordan is only recently joining the ranks. The reason the ministry has decided to adopt the IBRS is two-fold, said Mohammad Kahwaji, the new director of postal affairs. Until business reply mail service was available internationally, it was only possible to offer two types of prepayment postage: by enclosing an international reply coupon or by enclosing an envelope or card pre-stamped. This was generally considered inefficient because reply coupons have to be exchanged for stamps and because the sender incurs the cost of each piece of reply mail whether it is returned or not — an expensive endeayour for businesses intending to make a large mailing, considering that usually

"This service is needed in Jordan," he said. "There are new international and local businesses that could use a service like this for surveys. sending samples and marketing. It also works the other way - companies in the West and in the region would like to send things to Jordan with prepaid reply cards or

only 5 to 10 per cent of reply items are ever returned to the

Currently, seven countries have agreed to exchange this service with Jordan: the U.S., England, France, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Holland. Denmark and Australia.

An additional 20 countries have accepted to return reply mail originating in Jordan.

Subscribes to the service in here are subject to an annual JD10 plus the cost of postage for local service and JD25 plus the cost of postage of the country returning the mail for service abroad.

Businesses also assume the expense of printing reply cards and envelopes to the specifications of the ministry. According to Mr. Kahwaji, the ministry has thus for only received one application from a local magazine for the service. But, he expects the number of subscribers to increase following a media campaign to introduce the service to local businesses.

Polish economists see economic potential for more bilateral trade

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the early 1980's the balance of trade between Jordan and Poland tipped in favour of Jordan. Although in recent years bi-lateral trade has declined and reversed, now favouring Polish exports to Jordan, the Poles see potential for mutual benefit.

"Current trade relations between Jordan and Poland are insufficient and do not display their full potential," said Chancelor of the Commercial Chancellor's Office at the Polish Embassy Kazimierz Maurer.

"Poland and Jordan are at the same stage of change," said Mr. Maurer, who explained that Poland is still within the transition period from communisim to capitalism and that, in parallel, Jordan is adopting policies for a more open economy as well as progressive normalisation of relations with Israel.

"I expect a more open economy here, considering Crown Prince Hassan's announcement in Casablanca (during the economic conference held Oct. 30 to Nov. 1)

to open the Kingdom to in- . lish a joint venture with the and also the government's decision to decrease import tax. In consequence we (Polish economists) are preparing new ways and ideas to further bilateral commercial relations," Mr. Maurer said.

Accordingly, a small exhibition of 25 Polish companies will be held on Nov.

Among products exhibited will be cars, trucks, sweets and chocolates. The exhibi-tion will also play host to a handful of business and official meetings, Mr. Maurer told the Jordan Tiems.

"With the anticipated increased flow of tourists from and through Israel. Jordan should witness development in the business sector, and so we (at the Polish embassy) have encouraged Polish firms to attend the exhibition to see for themselves the opportunities available here. We hope that some of them will bid for tenders of new projects," he

A delegation from Polymex-Cekop, the Polish firm that built the Jordanian Glass Industries Company in Ma'an, now intends to estab-

creased imports and exports .. glass company. Mr. Maurer

Recent figures indicate that present Jordanian-Polish trade exchange is almost negligible: per annum Polish exports to Jordan amount to about \$10 million, while Jordanian exports to Poland are around \$1 million, Mr. Maurer said.

"Until a few years ago Poland imported a lot of Jordanian potash, but ceased because of Poland's financial troubles. However, five years of free economy has made Poland into one of the fastest developing countries in

Ецгоре. "Although prosperity starts with construction, development of agriculture, for which we need potash, is also important," he said. In a couple of years he expects Polish imports of potash to reach new heights.

"The aim of the exhibition is to bring Jordan and Poland closer together; to attract Polish investment and to encourage trade in both direc-tions," said Mr. Maurer,

The one-day public exhibi-tion will be held on Nov. 28 at Amra hotel.



STUDENT ART: University of Jordan University of Science and Technology and President Fawzi Gharaibeh Tuesday Muta University marking His Majesty opens a three-day art exhibition by stu- King Hussein's Birthday dents from Yarmouk University, Jordan

'Kindergarten of peace' to open in Wadi Araba, says charity

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Al Zahraa Charitable Society has decided to open a kindergarten in the Wadi Araba region and name it "The Kindergarten of Peace" in commemoration of the peace treaty which was

signed there last month be-

tween Jordan and Israel. Society President Hanaa Kurdi said that a team from the society will soon visit the Wadi Araba region to conduct a survey of the social conditions of people and the number of children of preschool age that could be cared for at the kindergarten.

She said that the society, which is governed by a board of trustees chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, cares for less fortunate children under five-years-old.

She said the kindergarten, which will be set up at Wadi Araba as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday will be solely dedicated to serving the needy children of the region.

Mrs. Kurdi said the society will develop the kindergarten into a school at a later stage and will hold training courses for women teachers at the

kindergarten level to be employed at the centre and other centres run by the soci-

Referring to other plans, Mrs. Kurdi said that the society recently opened a kinder-garten at Al Jadieh Village in the Bani Hamideh district, offering care to 40 children from local needy families.

Mrs. Kurdi said that the society has been working closely with the Ministry of Social Development in providing other services to the children, including mother and child care, in different rural areas of the country.

a role in protecting the Palestinian Authority," Mr. Abdul Razeq said. "We will not allow anybody to kill this newborn Palestinian state." Israel Radio said seven groups of Hawks had been formed in the Gaza Strip as strike forces against Hamas and Islamic lihad. The Palestinian Authority also tried some conciliatory measures. Police released 25 Islamic Jihad activists, leaving 70 of the scores arrested still in jail. And in a speech for Palestinian television, Mr. Arafat said Palestinians should not mourn recent events but should concentrate on their twin goals of ending the occupation on all Palestinian land and erasing

authority would not be tolerated, however. Hamas in turn, accused Mr. Arafat of provoking his opponents in hopes of unleashing a civil war that would destroy the Islamic

the effects of 27 years of

Israeli military rule. He

warned that acts against the

groups.
"There are some people in the Palestinian Authority who are pushing for civil war," said Emad Falouji, a

Arafat seeks to regain lead made Monday against international donors.

> opposition groups would not be dragged into a showdown. However, he said attacks against Israeli targets, both in the PLO-ruled areas and in Israel, would continue. Hamas' smaller sister organisation, Islamic Jihad, killed four Israeli soldiers guarding

Hamas leader. He said the

a Jewish settlement in Gaza in the past two weeks. Mr. Falouji said pressure by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Mr. Arafat to crack down on the opposition was counterproductive.

'We want to make clear for Mr. Rabin that the more pressure he exerts on Arafat to make him oppress us, the more military operations there will be against his (Rabin's) soldiers in Gaza." Mr. Falouji said.

Norway on Tuesday signed a \$10 million accord with the Palestinian Authority in the first sign of international support since last week's blood-.bath in Gaza.

Nabil Shaath, minister of international planning, praised Norway's "generous grant" for the three-year project to help develop his department.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinians were now ready with projects and accountability procedures. "At the beginning we were not ready because our institu-

tions were not on the ground," he told reporters after signing the Norwegian deal. "Now, our plans are ready and place is swarming with

is a problem of transparency any more.
"I think the problem now is with donors. Terje Larsen, U.N. coordi-

nator for the occupied terri-

auditors. I don't think there

tories, repeated charges he

"If we assess the donor effort today, I would say very simply: It's a failure," said Mr. Larsen, also present at

the signing ceremony in Gaza City.
He said donors had initially pledged \$700 million for 1994, but only \$140 million had actually been disbursed, most of which has gone for salaries and running costs.

Arafat seen to raise stakes in Gaza

(Continued from page 1) Fateh on Sunday after his lieutenants failed to get more than 500 people to demonstrate in his support. Fateh activists told the Jordan Times that they have agreed to shore up support for Mr. Arafat provided he accepted their demands for reforms in the Fatch move-

ment. By falling back on Fatch, however, and placing it in the frontline of the confrontation with Hamas, Mr. Arafat might have icopardised efforts to reach national reconciliation and marginalised the other

secular opposition.

Local leaders say that Mr. Arafat's and Hamas' attitudes are perpetuating the impression that the crisis emanates from a conflict. between fundamentalist "extremists" and moderate

PNA. But according to Dr. Abdul Shafi, this analysis is an over simplification that overshadows the major conflict arising from the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian agreements and the continuous Israeli occupation.

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Muasher, who started

Nepal's Communist Party wins elections but short of majority

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's Communist Party Tuesday won the largest block of seats in parliamentary elections but fell short of a working majority as political un-certainty gripped the Hima--layan kingdom.

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The Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist Party (UML) took 88 seats in the 205-member parliament. ahead of the outgoing ruling Congress Party with 81, near-complete results showed. With only two seats unde-

cided from last Tuesday's voting. Congress was unable to catch up despite an 11thhour comeback.

The UML could count on qualified support from a splinter group of Communists which won four seats, as well as two independents. But it would still lack a working majority.

The UML had not yet found a coalition partner to give it the necessary minimum 103 parliamentary seats to form a government to lead the kingdom, which abandoned absolute monarchy in 1990 in the face of prodemocracy protests.

JOHANNESBURG (R) -

South Africa's President Nel-

son Mandela opened Afri-

ca's biggest defence exhibi-

tion Tuesday with a plea that

defence production should be

used for peace and security.

"On display here are pro-

ducts... which can be used to

secure peace and security or

misused to sow fearful death

and destruction," Mr. Man-

"We have a unique oppor-

South Africa's DEXSA 94

exhibition is the second de-

fence industry fair put on for

general viewing following the

Only South African pro-

first such show in 1992.

not death and destruction.

Communists demonstrated in the capital Kathmandu Tuesday to protest against what the UML called "the blatant and naked irregularities by the government during the election."

UML leaders had warned of potential violence if it was found that the government tampered with the voting.

UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal Monday accused Congress of rigging late results in order to cut the Communists' lead and hinder their chances of forming a coalition.

A group of international observers concluded last week that while the election was generally free and fair. there had been "irregularities," mostly committed by However, the demonstra-

and there was no incident during the first hour of pro-Caretaker Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala said his Congress Party should step down and urged foreign aid

donors to continue providing

ducts are on show, although

foreign defence sources said

foreign exhibitors might par-

Items on display range

from 9mm pistols, to the world-class G-6 155mm long-

range artillery Howitzer.

the Rooivalk attack helicopt-

ter South Africa hopes to sell

to the British army, air de-

fence and naval gun systems.

sophisticated electronic

equipment and a full mobile

Foreign defence sources

Mandela opens Africa defence show

ticipate in the future.

tion got off to a peaceful start

lifeline even if the Communists formed the next govern-

But party President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, long at odds with Mr. Koirala, had indicated earlier Monday that Congress might try to form its own coalition.

UML leaders were set to meet Mr. Bhattarai Tuesday to explore coalition possibilities, Mr. Nepal said.

The Communists have concentrated on wooing dissident Congress Party members who precipitated the snap elections when they abandoned Mr. Koirala in a vote of confidence last July.

Mr. Koirala's government has been riven by allegations of corruption, as well as high inflation and charges it failed to improve the standard of living in Nepal, one of the world's 10 poorest nations with annual earnings of about \$180 a head.

The UML general secretary said former Congress leader and elder statesman Ganesh Man Singh, who broke with Mr. Koirala ear-

state arms procurement

agency which organised the exhibition, said dozens of

foreign visitors were attend-

ing the show, including de-legations from China and

He said the exhibition and

Mr. Mandela's attendance

represented a success for the

country's defence industry in

nowledgement by the coun-

try's leaders that the defence

"Secondly, the internation-

al interest demonstrates that

we do have something of

tional market," he told Reu-

worth to offer the interna-

"The first one is an ack-

two ways.

lier this year and last week accused him of "misrule". could lead as many as 25 Congress rebels into the UML camp.

Congress officials said party leaders would decide at a meeting Wednesday whether to support the UML, withhold backing or try to form its own coalition.

UML called a meeting of parliamentarians for Wednesday to elect a leader who would be their candidate as prime minister.

There is an understanding that party chief Man Mohan Adhikary will become the leader of the parliamentary party," Mr. Nepal said. A moderate, Mr. Adhikary survived 17 years in jail and upheaval in his movement to merge two Communist

The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), whose leaders governed Nepal during three decades of partyless rule until 1990, said it would decide on coalition possibilities on Thursday. With 20 seats, the RPP held a potentially strong bargaining hand.

Russian general goes on trial on bribe charges

MOSCOW (R) - A Russian Air Force general went on trial in Moscow Tuesday charged with embezzlement and taking bribes while serving with Russian forces in Germany.

read out to a military court. Nikolai Seliverstov, former first deputy commander of the 16th Air Force based in Germany, was charged with embezzling more than 60.000 marks (\$39,000) and taking bribes totalling 20,000 marks (\$13,000).

Gen. Seliverstov, 49, a dark-haired, bespectacled figure dressed in civilian clothes, said he would plead not guilty.

"I am not guilty. I have been picked as a scapegoat. he told reporters during a break in the hearing at the three-judge, military collegium of the Supreme Court, Russia's highest military court.

A prosecutor told reporters if all the charges were proved Gen. Seliverstov could go to jail for up to 15

The charges relate to alleged incidents in 1992 in Russia's Western Army Group which served in Germany. It has been the focus of corruption allegations in the Russian media for months.

they are not believed to have made much progress after two years of talks. Both sides were confident

Little movement on Spratlys as China

and Vietnam turn towards business

that the dispute, which has soured relations since ties were normalised in 1991. would be set aside as the countries work for a solution, allowing them to step up their growing business links.

"If there are problems that we can settle, we will do so. Otherwise we will leave them aside so as not to affect other relations," Mr. Cam told a news conference.

Before Mr. Jiang's delegation left for Beijing, Mr. Qian brushed off any prospect of multilateral talks on the islands, which also lie in areas claimed by Brunei. Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines. All the countries except Brunei have a military

sion of joint development of oil reserves believed to lie under the area, which is seen as a key step towards a future settlement.

not allowed for any discus-

signing of bilateral agreements Tuesday. Mr.

Jiang Tuesday concluded his visit to Vietnam (AFP photo)

The Vietnamese foreign minister refused to set a target for a solution to the problem of the Paracels. taken over by China in 1974. and the Spratlys, where naval forces from the two countries clashed in 1988.

"I'm not a fortune teller so I can't predict an agreement but the problem will be solved earlier than expected," he said before quickly adding that "such complex issues needed time and persistance."

Mr. Cam hinted that Vietnam's entry into the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), widely seen as a move to counterbalance China's growing military and economic power, would help move the issue forward.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines. Singapore and Thai-

"It's a positive develop! ment that will exert a positive pressure to resolve these problems," he said.

India invited to supermodel contest by Ford

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India has been invited to participate in the Supermodel of the World contest after two local beauties won both the Miss Universe and Miss World titles this year, the Press Trust of India said India will be among the 36 contesting nations in the pageant next year organised by the U.S.-based Ford Mod-el Inc., which has launched several famous models such as Christine Brinkley, Rachel Hunter and Bridget Hall, PIT said. The invitation came two days after 21-year-old Aishwarva Rai, an architecture student from Bombay, won the Miss World title in South Africa's Sun City, just months after compatriot Sushmita Sen was crowned Miss Universe in Manila. Ms Sen's victory was a debut for India but Ms. Rai is the second Indian Miss World, following Reita Faria who took the title in 1966.

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Moscow hosting first top fashion show

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia's first high fashion week opens here Tuesday with a dozen leading French houses show. ing their autumn collections from Paris modelled by local mannequins. A new market for fashion and luxury goods has become noticeable here in the past two years. Russians crowd around store windows in their spare time to see that Western goods are on offer, and high class clothing, along with strong liquor, has a preponderant place. Lapidus, Paco Rabanne, Louis Feraud, Torrente, Lecoanet Hemant, Jean-Louis Scherrer and Carven are among the big names who have sent their top people. The fashion parades are being staged in the Rossia Hotel, where tickets for places range from \$15 for a seat to \$700 for the whole week. The idea for the show came from young Russian couturier Valentin Yudashkin, whose reputation has spread beyond the confines of Russia in the past few years. He has significant support for Yosif Kobzon, the Soviet era singer who is cultural adviser to Moscow's mayor Yuri Luzhkov, the sponsor of the event. Mr. Russian dress designer to mount a collection this week.

Poles start sex life younger.

survey shows WARSAW (AFP) — The percentage of young Poles who have lost their virginity by the age of 15 or 16 has doubled compared with four years ago, according to a survey reported Monday in the daily newspaper Zycic Warszawy. The proportion has increased from five to ten per cent of teenagers of that age as a whole. Among boys, 25 per cent of 15-16 year olds have had their first sextial experience, compared with 17 per cent four years ago, according to the investigation by the Institute for the Mother and Child. At age 17, 29 per cent of girls and 47 per cent of boys say they have had sex. Researchers found that schoolgirls from comfortable families, who smoked, did not believe in God and did badly at school, were those who had sex earliest. According to the sur among the traditionally Catholic population, and gave being in love or fear of losing their partner as the reason for starting their sex life, whereas boys cited a need to "release tension."

China's censors give green light: to 'sacred' nude

BELITNG (AFP) -- Chink's censors have given the goahead to a nude scene in a film marking the 60th anniversary of the celebrated 1934-35 Long March by the communist Red Army under Mao Zedong, a report said Monday. The director of the film Golden Sands, Running Waters described the depr sion as a "breakthrough", and admitted he had been worried the scene - involving the character of Mao's brother-in-law - might not receive official approval. In the end the censor's praised as "serious, solemn and sacred" the scene, in which a naked young girl from the Yi minority confronts the Red Army during the march. Nudity is still a rarity in Chinese cinema and tas generally been confined to the works of more independent-minded directors, rather than official propaganda releases.

industry has an outstanding tunity to help ensure that said two items on show for contribution to make to the the first time were a G-6 gun peaceful purpose are served development of South Afriby the defence industry," he turret mounted on an old Soviet T-72 tank chassis and

Russia's MiG-29 jet engine

South Africa may install in its

French-built Mirage F-1

for South Africa's Armscor

Abba Omar, spokesman

fighter aircraft.

E.Timor students opt for Portugal asylum in the U.S. embassy in Jakarta for the past 10 days said Tuesday they would accept asylum in Portugal because

they fear for their safety in The U.S. embassy and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said they were processing the group's travel documents. Jakarta has reiterated a promise not to hinder their departure, the local ICRC representative told Reuters.

Diplomats following the case said they would leave before the end of the week. A spokesman for the 29 youths, Domingos Sarmento Alvez, told reporters through the embassy fence they had

JAKARTA (R) — East decided to go after alleged Neither demand was ity officers and contradictory statements about their fate if they stayed.

"It's a hard decision for us because we want to go back to East Timor. But based on our experience here, where Indonesian intelligence officers have continually been threatening us, we feel we should leave (Indonesia)," he

said. The 29 scaled the embassy fence on Nov. 12 to demand the release of their guerrilla leader Xanana Gusmao, who is serving a 20-year jail sent-

ence for subversion. They also requested a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton or other senior

U.S. officials then in Jakarta.

dominated media coverage of a meeting of regional leaders in Jakarta. The East Timorese capital of Dili was also swept by a week of riot-

ing and pro-independence protests. ICRC delegate Henri Fournier said by telephone he had been told by the students late Monday that they

Portugal, which ruled East Timor until a few months before Indonesia's 1975 invasion and is still recognised by the United Nations as the administering authority, has agreed to take the 29 youths. Lisbon regards all East Timorese as its citizens.

wanted to leave.



Brazilian Marines ride a patrol vehicle through the streets of the shantytown of Dende in Rio De Janeiro. Some 1,500 federal army troops have been deployed in Rio's slums as

part of the Operation Rio to crack down on the illegal trade in firearms and drugs. The troops left the shantytowns Monday (AFP photo)

Brazil troops pull out of Rio slums

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) -Army and navy troops have pulled out of two Rio shanty towns after weekend searches for drug-traffickers in which scores of people were detained, an army spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman, Colonel Ivan Cardozo, said the army had also set up checkpoints at the entrances to six other shanty towns in an attempt to cut off the flow of drugs and weapons to gangs.

Referring to the situation in Mangueira, one of the hillside slums where the raids were conducted, Col. Cardozo said: "The hill is no longer under the control of the drug-

traffickers. Army agents had infiltrated the area and will identify those selling drugs, he

In addition to Mangueira, navy units supported by tanks and helicopters spent nearly 48 hours searching for traffickers, drugs and weapons in Dende, a shanty town overlooking Rio's Guanabara

Army officials had not disclosed how many troops were involved in the two operations but news reports put the figure at between 1,500 and

Globo Television said 128 people were arrested in the two raids including the suspected head of the drug trade in Mangueira. Eight weapons and cocaine and manijuana

Eighteen people remained in custody Monday, Globo

A 37-year-old man was accidentally shot in the arm by a navy Marine Sunday while an army soldier was shot and injured by a suspected drug-trafficker the previous day. Another soldier and a police officer were also wounded by accidential

Brazilian President Itamar Franco ordered the military to head a crackdown on organised crime and corruption in Rio in response to growing concern over the power of drug gangs and their influence over the city's police.

"In other situations, the army is reported to have killed civilians who have disobeyed orders to relocate their homes, to supply goods or provide labour for little or no compensation," it said, adding that sometimes villagers were executed in reprisal killings for soldiers shot by

According to Mr. Yokota's report, rape occurs on a wide scale and "so-called gang rapes by entire groups of Myanmar military personnel are not uncommon. He said that women serv-

insurgents.

ing as porters or forced labourers were especially vulnerable. Rape was also used as a method of forcing women from ethnic minorities to marry Burmese sol-His report said that over

the past six years more than one million people have been forcibly relocated without compensation, to new towns, villages or camps because of insurgent uprisings. If they refuse, they are usually forcibly evicted and their property looted. About 75,000 refugees

from Burma have fled to camps in Thailand and as many as 100,000 are reported to have left their villages to hide from the army inside Burma, About 200,000 Muslim refugees from the northern Rakhine state are still in Bangladesh, despite attempts

to repatriate them. Meanwhile the Asia-Pacific region's first democraSeoul on Dec. 1 with a campaign for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, organisers said Tuesday. Announcing the launch of

the Forum of Democratic Leaders in the Asia-Pacific (FDL-AP), former South Korean opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung called her house arrest by the Burmese military junta since 1989 "un-"The present military gov-

This act of defiance is clearly unconscionable and must be rectified." he said. Mr. Kim said a personal

message from Aung San Suu Kyi would be read at the opening ceremony in Seoul to be attended by former Philip-pine President Corazon Aquino and some 200 other regional figures.

China, North Korea, Laos, Vietnam and other countries in the region without pluralistic political systems have not been invited to the two-day meeting. Mr. Kim said.

However his aides said that Mr. Kim, who spent six years in prison under South Korea's former militarybacked rulers and 10 years in exile, had quietly sounded out China's leaders during a visit to Beijing last month and received a negative re-

Sponse.

"Asia has its own democratic traditionas in Confucianism and Buddhism," he said. Mr. Kim said the forum to be headquartered in Seoul with national chapters in countries around the region, would follow three basic guidelines - noninterference, non-violence

He said the FDL-AP advocates.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (right), Viet-

namese Communist Party Secretary General

Do Muoi (left) and Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh (2nd left) toast after witnessing the

HANOI (AFP) - China and

Vietnam made little headway

in resolving their dispute in

the South China Sea after a

visit here by Chinese Presi-

dent Jiang Zemin, preferring

to set the issue aside in the

interest of closer economic

In talks with Vietnamese

leaders. Mr. Jiang restated

principles to find a peaceful

solution to claims on the

Spratly and Paracel Islands

but offered little in the way of

new steps to solve the prob-

A communique issued af-ter the three-day visit prom-

ised that neither side would

resort to force or the threat of

force. Both countries also

agreed to avoid any issues

that might "complicate" the

Group: Japan has duty to war sex slaves

GÉNEVA (R) — Japan has a moral and legal duty to the Asian women used as sex slaves by its soldiers during World War II, the International Commission of Jurists

(ICJ) said Tuesday.

The ICJ report finds that

The Geneva-based organisation said its report, enti-tled Comfort Women. documented how the Japanese Imperial Army forced sex on between 100,000 and 200,000 Asian

girls and women. It is based on an ICJ mission to the Philippines, North Korea, South Korea and Japan in April 1993 by two female jurists who interviewed more than 40 victims.

three former soldiers and government representatives.

the Japanese Imperial Army

was responsible for the setting up of a vast network of 'comfort stations' for the 'enjoyment' of the Japanese army, before and during World War II," it said in a statement.

"Chinese, Dutch, Filipino, Indonesian, Korean, Malaysian. Taiwanese and other women and girls, often as young as 13, were thrown into these 'comfort stastions' and 'sexual services' were extracted from them through unimaginable violence and

cruelty. ICI said its report, due to be made available later in the day or Wednesday, urges Japan to "take immediate steps to provide full rehabilitation and restitution to the victims as it is clear that it bears a moral and legal

obligation towards them." The ICJ, composed of about 45 eminent jurists, promotes the rule of law and the legal protection of human rights worldwide.

Last August, the United Nations Human Rights Sub-Commission, a Geneva-based body of 26 members, asked two of its special investigators to look into Japan's wartime use of sexual slaves. A month later Japanese

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama announced a \$1 billion fund to be used over the next 10 years for exchange programmes and to build vocational training centres for women as a token of apology for war atrocities. But the ICJ brushed aside the planned fund as not counting as compensation.

U.N. report accuses Burma of severe abuses

UNITED NATIONS (Agen cies) — A new U.N. human rights report accuses- Burmese authorities of torture, rape, forced labour, destruction of property, looting and summary executions despite years of international pro-The report to the General

Assembly, released Tuesday by the special rapporteur, Yozo Yokota of Japan, shows scant improvement over the past year, although the government has been willing to negotiate with U.N. officials over refugees and other issues.

Burma, known as Myanmar, has been shunned by the world community for its crushing of a democracy uprising in 1988 and its subsequent refusal to recognise an election victory by a democracy party led by Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who has been under house arrest for five years. The 1994 report again fo-

cuses on abuses by the armed forces, predominantly against minority groups in areas where insurgencies have or had been taking place. These include summary executions, severe torture and

random shootings at groups

of villagers without provoca-"Such situations have frequently been reported in the process of attempts by the army to arrest and detain civilians for the purposes of forced portering and other labour," the report said.

cy forum will be launched in

ernment (in Burma) was soundly defeated in the 1990 elections... (and) has refused to transfer power to the duly elected civilian authorities...

Some countries of the

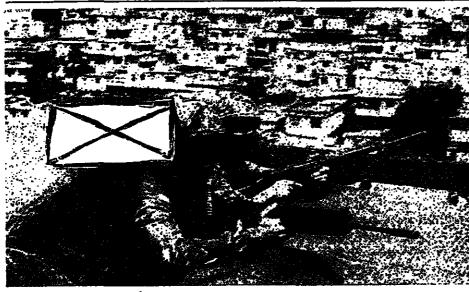
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). which pursues a policy of "constructive engagement" rather than confrontation with the military regime in Burma, will however be rep-

resented, the aides said. Mr. Kim said he thought the forum could become a permanent fixture in the region and a strong counterforce to voices that used "development" as an excuse for totalitarianism or who argued that democracy was a Western transplant.

and free participation of all peoples.

Asked if the noninterference principle was not contradictory to the active Burma campaign and the goal of the organisation to bring democracy to all of Asia, Mr. Kim replied that there were "creative ways of influencing dictatorships."

should be to Asia what the Helsinki Human Rights Declaration was to the former Soviet Union - a base of moral pressure on totalitarian governments, and a rallying point for pro-democracy



Office confirms Berlusconi probe

LROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's office Tuesday confirmed that he had been formally -- warned he faced inquiry in a Escorruption probe.

A spokeswoman for the prime minister's office confirmed a report by Italian News Agency (ANSA) that Mr. Berlusconi had received +.a formal warning of investigaattion from Milan magistrates.

Such notices are issued afuter magistrates acquire evidence to suspect that a crime Damay have been committed. ... The warning was issued hours Jafter Mr. Berlusconi said he schad not committed any crime and would not resign.

or He was responding to a report in a Milan newspaper that magistrates had placed his name on a list of people who could be investigated for corruption.

The warning is believed to refer to bribes allegedly paid to tax inspectors by Mr. Ber-"lusconi's fininvest business empire before he entered "politics. Mr. Berlusconi has rsaid the payments were ex--tortion demanded by corrupt -officials.

Mr. Berlusconi said Tues-'day he had not committed -any crime and would not

resign.
The embattled prime running war with magistrates over their investigative 'methods, suggested the in-'formation was timed to embarrass him while he hosts a big U.N. conference on - international crime in Na-

The report in the authoratative Corriere Della Sera was another hammer blow. . for Mr. Berlusconi after his party suffered a severe setback in the first round of weekend elections.

-: His supporters said it was timed to hit him while he was down and influence the ~ second round of the vote next . -month. Coalition: partners affected the government.

. . "As far as I am concerned I - am serene because, as I have . said many times in the past, I am absolutely sure I have not committed any offence." he told reporters in Naples.

Mr. Berlusconi said he was fully determined to "continue in the service of the state' and added that he had not been formally notified by the ""magistrates of their reported · move.

The report said magistrates had put Mr. Berlusconi's name on a routine list of ' people they may formally investigate in the future if there "is sufficient evidence.

The procedure in which ... magistrates put names on a list of possible suspects is automatic in Italy, but does ; .not imply charges or guilt and is not as serious as a judicial warning, which is issued only . after magistrates acquire firm evidence.

Mr. Berlusconi has said in the past that he would not resign even if he did even-F, tually recieve a judicial warn-

He repeated his contention that executives of his companies, like many others in italy had been extorted by corrupt officials and had no

hoice but to pay up.
He said the elements of the report were old and based on police questioning of his busihess partners.

"They, like thousands of other managers and entrepreneurs have been passive victims of extortion and not active corruptors." he said.

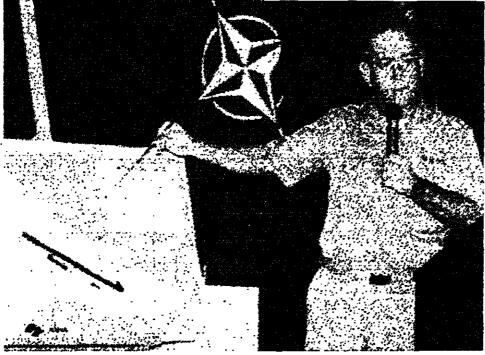
He accused the migistrates, who have not commented on the report, of violating their duty to keep their work sec-

Mr. Berlusconi questioned the "sense of responsibility" of those who had decided to use the information while he is hosting the U.N. crime

conference. Justice Minister Alferdo Biondi said magistrates should open an investigation into the leak, "All I know is that a citizen has discovered from a newspaper that he is being investigated and di-

vulging secret ionformation is a crime." he said. The episodes involve suspected bribes paid to Italian tax police in 1991 and 1992 by two companies owned by Mr. Berlusconi's Fininvest busi-

ness empire before he entig 2d politics.
The report in the newspaper rattled markets and initally sent the lira sliding, but the currency later bounced back.



Admiral Leighton Smith points to a map Serb-held territory in Cr showing the area of the NATO airstrikes which conference (AFP photo)

NATO commander for southern Europe hit, earlier Monday, the Ubdina Airfield in Admiral Leighton Smith points to a map Serb-held territory in Croatia, during a press

Rich, poor states split on ways to fight crime

NAPLES, Italy (AFP) -Rich and poor countries split Tuesday over how to fight organised crime on the second day of a groundbreaking U.N. conference on a problem the U.N. chief said was threatening the very foundation of democracy.

Boutros Ghali had urged the 800 delegates — interior and justice ministers and senior police officials — from 140 countries at the conference to boost cooperation and legislation to try to fight spreading transnational crime networks.

But differences emerged quickly Tuesday in a committee presided by Colombian Vice President Humberto de la Calle working on a final document the conference had hoped to adopt at its closing

The divisions focused on what sort of overall plan of action to adopt against crimi-. nality across borders. Developing countries

pushed more for a global U.N. convention against such organised crime - as outlined in an Argentine proposal backed by Latin American and African countries as well as Italy and Dr. Ghali.

But Western industrialised countries, notably the United States and Britain, wanted more specific and more readily enforcable steps.

Britain's Junior Home Office Minister David Maclean urged delegates Tuesday to "focus on what is practical and achievable and organised transnational crime.

His statement echoed comments the night before by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno who suggested strengthening bilateral accords to fight organised crime.

An aide to a Western deegation said Tuesday political and economic reasons were behind the developing countries preference for the more generalised form of a U.N.

U.N. human rights chief "said the furore should not slams Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's militant Khmer Rouge guerrillas are guilty of a variety of human rights abuses, including forced conscription and mass rape. J.N. human rights chief Michael Kirby said in a re-

A copy of the report by Mr. Kirby, special representative for human rights for Cambodia, was obtained by Reuters Tuesday.

The report said the treatment of prisoners in Khmer Rouge prisons, "constitute some of the worst abuses of human rights which are occurring in Cambodia at this

The report described one Khmer Rouge detention camp as a barbed wire enclosure in which four makeshift huts are set up on stilts.

The detainees, who include illegal wood cutters, Government soldiers and those accused of being government agents, "are living and sleeping on the bare ground without straw mats, blankets or mosquito nets.

"All were said to be sick with malaria and to suffer from skin diseases resulting from lack of hygiene and very

Austria ready to join EU in January

VIENNA (R) — President ters last week that the Au-Thomas Klestil signed Austria's accession treaty to the European Union (EÚ) Tuesday, officially wrapping up formalities in the country for EU membership five years after Vienna applied to join

Mr. Klestil signed the document in the gilded state rooms of Vienna's Hofburg Palace hung with portraits of emperors of the Austro-Hungarian Empire who once ruled a huge swathe of

The official signing ceremony took place following ratification of the accession treaty by both houses of par-

liament this month. Austria's Chancellordesignate Franz Vranitzky, still trying to put together a coalition government six weeks after a general election, also put his name to the treaty as acting head of gov-

Mr. Klestil thanked parliament for dealing swiftly with the necessary legal procedures to enable Austria to meet its scheduled EU entry date of Jan. 1, 1995.

"I also hope that the other countries will also take the necessary steps as quickly to secure entry on January the 1st," Mr. Klestil said after toasting the signing with a traditional glass of Austrian Sekt (champagne).

Austria is due to join the EU with Finland and Sweden, whose voters backed membership in national referendums. Norway holds its vote on EU entry on Nov.

Austrian voters backed membership in June by an overwhelming 66.4 per cent. a much wider margin than the government had expected. Central Bank President Maria Schaumayer told Reustrian schilling will join the EU's Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) as soon as possible after EU entry. Austria will continue its policy of pegging the schilling to the German mark after joining the ERM, she said. That would effectively keep the currency within the "temporary" 15 per cent fluctua-

tion bands allowed since last year's EU currency crisis. Meanwhile, the number of Norwegian voters opposed to membership in the European Union rose again in the latest opinion polls published Tuesday a week before a referendum on the issue is held on

Nov. 28. In results from two new polls, 51 per cent of Norwegians in one and 46 per cent in the other said they would vote against membership in the EU, 35 and 39 per cent would vote for joining, and 14 and 15 per cent are still

undecided. The polls, conducted Sunday and Monday by the MMI Institute and published by the Dagbladet daily, show opposition — at 51 per cent - up three percentage points over the previous polls pub-

lished Monday. Supporters of EU membership lost a point at 35 per cent, while the undecided group lost two percentage points at 14 per cent. A total 1.687 people were ques-

Another poll conducted by Gallup for the public television channel TV 2 showed the "no" vote up one point to 46 per cent and the "yes" vote stable at 39 per cent.

The Gallup poil, which in-terviewed 1,000 people, also showed the undecided vote down by one point to 15 per cent against the previous poll published Monday.

Murayama fights to hold

coalition

together

TOKYO (R) — Japan headed for a new political crisis Tuesday with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama battling to hold his government together and a top minister warning that political upheaval threatened economic recovery.

Several top business leaders also clamoured for an end to the uncertainty that has been set off by widening rifts in Mr. Murayama's Socialist Party, imminent electoral reform and speculation about a snap election.

On Monday Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the influential business lobby Keidanren started a chorus of calls by industry captains for early elections in the aftermath of parliament's passage of laws to implement sweep-

ing electoral reform. He was joined by Hiroshi Saito, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation. who told a news conference that "under the new electoral system, an election should be held to check what the Japanese people want. Mr. Murayama is Jap

fourth prime minister since the last parliamentary elections were held in July 1993. One object of electoral reform is to create a system that gives voters a U.S.-style choice between two major

parties that would have the mandate to form a govern-The current ruling coalition of the Socialists, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Sakigake was cobbled together in June through

behind-the-scenes negotia-

tions following the collapse of

the previous wobbly coali-Despite the turmoil, key economy ministers Tuesday warned that dissolving parliament to call elections would cause delays in drafting the fiscal 1995 budget and stifle

the country's nascent economic recovery. Masahiko Komura, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), said drafting the budget on time requires that Mr. Murayama's government "re-

main stable." In his quest for stability, Mr. Murayama, the Socialist chairman, on Tuesday pleaded with Wataru Kubo. his second-in-command, to help him curb moves to split the party and weaken his administration.

On Saturday a group of party mavericks will hold a symposium on the creation of the new Democratic League. a grouping of Socialists and other lawmakers who seek a liberal third force to counter the LDP and the conservative opposition bloc.

Mr. Kubo, a key figure in the new liberal party scheme, told reporters he would "support the Murayama administration as long as it exists." However, he later urged

Mr. Murayama to hasten efforts to unite the liberals. arguing "political realignment will not proceed on the Socialists' time schedule." The opposition camp. made up of reformist parties

keenly watching develop-ments among the Socialists. The 10 non-Communist prties, which will merge on Dec. 10. seek defectors from the ruling camp and hope the turmoil will force Mr. Murayama to call elections early next year.

that controlled the govern-

ment from August to April, is

British jets targetted as Serbs advance on Bihac

forces pressed home their attack on Bosnia's Bihac enclave and two British jet fighters came under missile fire Tuesday, less than 24 hours after a punitive NATO raid on a Serb air base.

Two British Sea Harrier jets were fired on by missiles over Serb-held territory, a NATO spokesman said.

"It would appear that two Sea Harriers were subject to being fired on by missiles over northern Bosnia in the area near Banja Luka," said a spokesman at NATO Southern Europe Headquarters in Naples. The aircraft were not hit. The attack came a day af-

ter jets from four NATO nations, including Britain, struck at a rebel Serb airbase in Croatia in the alliance's biggest attack in its 45 year Banja Luka, Bosnia's second city, lies at the heart of Serb-held territory in the

north of the republic and is the site of a major air base. The United States issued a warning that NATO would strike again against the Serbs unless they stopped attacking

Bihac. A senior United Nations official said two people had been killed and four wounded in the NATO attack on Udbina Air Base.

U.N. civil affairs deputy chief Colum Murphy dismissed criticism of the limited military effect of the attack, saying it was vital to keep open lines of communication to the Serbs. "One is constantly trying

to tread that thin blue line where you don't damage communication with the war-ring parties," Mr. Murphy The raid, seen as sending a

political message to the Serbs, avoided attacking Serb aircraft on the ground and NATO conceded the air base could be reopened before very long.

A Serbian technical expert

estimated the runway at

less than 24 hours. Serb troops backed by tanks and a helicopter were advancing across the Bihac enclave Tuesday.

"In the area of Gata Ilidza. it is believed the attacking forces were supported by tanks and a helicopter which fired rockets into BIH (Bosnian army) positions," a United Nations source said.

The local U.N. comman-

der said the Serbs were pushing hundreds of Bihac refugees before them and leaving a trail of burning villages in their wake.

"There is fighting in the southwest of the valley. through Croat villages that are now burning," Colonel Jean Charles Lemieux, the U.N. military commander in Bihac, told Reuters by telephone late Monday.

"There are refugees on the road from West to East," he said. "I've seen (artillery) impacts come down in their villages — the valley was full

The Canadian colonel said Serb heavy weapons of all sorts including tanks were being used in the attack on Bihac

The International Commit-

tee of the Red Cross said about 2,000 people displaced by the fighting had fled to Bihac town. Red Cross warehouses in the Bihac enclave had run out of food, spokeswoman Lisa Jones said.

Bosnian government forces in the Bihac enclave broke out of the pocket in October, surprising Serbs who had encircled them for more thantwo years.

The Serbs lost about 250 square kilometres of territory to the Bosnian army's Fifth Corps before counterattacking in force, recapturing virtually all their lost ground and threatening the U.N.-protected "safe area" of Bihac town.

Attacks by Croatian Serb combat jets against the Bihac safe area prompted Monday's NATO raid on the Udbina

The United Nations said food must urgently be allowed into Bihac enclave to alleviate the suffering of 180,000 people who had received practically no aid since

last May. "It's fine to focus on airfields but there are people on the ground who have a right to food and medical supplies," said Peter Kessler. spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), referring to Monday's air

The UNHCR had appealed repeatedly to the Serbs of the so-called republic of Serbian Krajina to permit convoys to move, but there was an "ongoing policy of using humanitarian aid as a weapon," Mr. Kessler told

Reuters in Zagreb. Unless rebel Serbs who control access to the enclave from the West allow U.N. aid convoys to pass, emergency airdrops would be needed to feed the people, he said.



Two Bosnian Croat soldiers examine a makeshift cemetery for Bosnian Serbs in central Kupres. The town, which had been held by

Muslim-C. Jat forces (AFP photo)

Angola fears rebel attacks despite ceasefire

LUANDA (R) - The Angolan government said Tuesday it expected more attacks by UNITA rebels despite a ceasefire in one of Africa's longest wars due later in the

"We can expect other violations will happen," Lopo Ferreira, secretarygeneral of the ruling MPLA. said on Angolan state radio. The United Nations said

even when the ceasefire came into force it would be unable to monitor it. 'We have five U.N. stations in Angola in non-active zones... but, we have no way

of verifying if there is a violation," a U.N. official told 'We have plans to bring about 600 military observers and police to Angola but this cannot be done overnight... I

have no idea when this will happen."
Mr. Ferreira said Angolan government forces would remain vigilant.

"We still hope that the ceasefire can be implemented.... hope will grow as the ceasefire is properly implemented. Our hope cannot stop us being vigilant he said, adding the international community should put pressure on UN-

The government said UN-ITA rebels attacked the town of Cacolo Sunday and the northern city of Uige Mon-day, the night before the ceasefire, which according to agreements signed in the Zambian capital Lusaka Sunday, was to take effect at

noon GMT Tuesday. Government forces captured Uige from UNITA last week in what the rebels said was a violation of a truce aimed at facilitating Sunday's signing of the peace pact ending the 19-year war.

State-run Angolan newspapers said the ceasefire would only come into force at midnight (2300 GMT). There was no immediate explanation for the differing timings and diplomats in Luanda described the situation as con-

The United Nations Monday pointedly reminded government and rebels of the need to honour their commitments to peace and respect

the ceasefire. The Council reminds the parties of the responsibilities they bear to respect fully the ceasefire agreement which is to go into effect on Nov. 22, ," said a statement read at a U.N. Security Council meeting in New York. The peace accord was originally planned, by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, who said government attacks on UNITA made it unsafe for him to travel. Lower-ranked officials signed on behalf of both parties.

In Lusaka, military delegations from both sides met again Tuesday to hammer out technical details of the cease-

said the question of Mr. Savimbi's security, the disarming of rebel forces, the locations of confinement and assembly areas for the rival forces and a proposed ban on the acquisition of new arms were still being discussed.

"We hope the two sides will stop fighting today. The next step will be a meeting between Mr. Savimbi and Mr. Dos Santos, probably within the next 10 days," a well-placed source told Reuters in Lusaka.

He said the Lusaka talks would not affect the timing of the ceasefire and discussions were likely to continue for some time.

The U.N. Security Council said it looked forward to a report from Secretary-General Boutros Ghali that

signed in Lusaka, but not, as the ceasefire had become effective, thus allowing the deployment of the additional U.N. military and police observers.

If a ceasefire eventually holds, the United Nations, which has asked Zambia Zimbabwe and South Africa to commit men to the peace effort, hopes eventually to field about 8.000 troops and

support personnel. UNITA Radio Tuesday quoted a source in the rebel movement's leadership as expressing reservations about the inclusion of South African troops in a peacekeeping

"How can South African troops take part in a peacekeeping force after participating in massacres of the Angolan people alongside the MPLA?" it asked, referring to veterans of apartheidruled Pretoria's Angolan involvement on the side of UN-ITA in the 1980s, now acting as advisers to the Luanda

government forces. The radio, monitored in the island state of \$20 Tome and Principe, broadcast a message of peace and recon-

ciliation. 'The time has come for concord, peace and understanding among Angolans,'

IAEA experts arrive in N. Korea on nuclear talks

TOKYO (AFP) — A team of technical experts from the International Atomic Energy (IAEA) arrived in Pyongyang Tuesday for talks on North Korea's pledge to freeze its nuclear program-

The North Korean News Agency (KCNA), monitored here, said the team was to discuss "technical matters" to be resolved between North Korea and the IAEA following a landmark Pyongyang-Washington nuclear accord

last month. In the agreement, the United States promised to replace North Korea's graphite-moderate nuclear reactors, which produce weapons-grade plutonium, with light-water reactors financed by an international

The freezing of the North Korean reactors should follow within a month of the signing of the accord. The reactors will be eventually shut down and dismantled. The KCNA did not give any details of the visit of the

IAEA team. A diplomatic

source in Vienna said earlier the team might be made of four or five people and would join two other IAEA inspectors already stationed in North Korea observing North Korea's nuclear activities.

A team of U.S. experts toured the secretive North Korean nuclear complex of Yongbyon last week and found some 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods had not been tampered with after they were extracted from an experimental reactor earlier Weapons-grade pluto-

nium, enough to make several nuclear bombs, could be extracted from the rods, U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry has said. North Korea Tuesday reected an offer to take part of

in multilateral talks on a peace treaty aimed at replacing the Korean War armis-Instead. North Korea insisted on bilateral contacts

between Pyongyang and Washington. The South Korean puppets ... have no justification

to poke their noses into the conclusion of a peace agreement." Pyongyang's ruling Workers' Party organ, Rodong Shinmun, said in an editorial.

"To establish a new peace

arrangement on the Korean

peninsula is a matter to be resolved by the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States," the paper was quoted as saying by KCNA. North Korea called for bilateral talks with the United States to discuss the signing of a peace treaty to replace the current Korean armis-

trice, which ended the Korean War of 1950-53. But the North says the South should not be included because the Korean armistice was signed only by North Korean and Chinese Armed Forces on one side, and by U.S.-led United Nations

troops on the other. South Korea and the United States dismiss the Pyongyang proposal as unrealistic arguing that the truce was a military document signed by defence commanders, not an accord among nations.

Washington and Seoul agree the armistice should be replaced, but have suggested four-way talks including the two Koreas, China and the

United States. During a visit by Prime Minister Li Peng in Seoul earlier this month, Chinese officials said for the first time that South Korea also should

take part. China, North Korea's main political ally, recalled its officers from the armistice supervisory commission last month saying a replacement

agreement was needed. Meanwhile the construction of two light-water reactors, which were promised to North Korea in return for freezing its suspect nuclear programme, will start in 1997, a senior South Korean

Official said Tuesday. "The construction is expected to take eight years, including two years for designing, Shin Jae-In, director of the state-financed Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute, told leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP)

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Arms can't talk

ALL INDICATORS from the Gaza Strip point to the looming possibility of another violent showdown between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Hamas and Islamic Jihad organisations. Unless the temporary truce declared between them is not only signed and sealed but also accompanied by other measures to consolidate the PNA grip on power in the affected areas, the showdown will be inevitable. A Gazan driver's comment in the aftermath of Friday's bloody clash that took the lives of 16 Palestinians may have hit the nail on the head when he said that "what happened on Friday will happen again and again if all these weapons are not collected.

"As the initial agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the armed opposition provides for neither the disarming of Islamist groups nor for an end to anti-Israeli attacks from within the Gaza Strip the chances are that another encounter would take place until Hamas and Islamic Jihad accept that there is but one authority in the Palestinian self-rule areas that cannot be challenged by public display of firepower.

There are negative consequences for the entire region in the breakdown of law and order in the Gaza Strip. As former Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi remarked in the wake of seeing Palestinians shedding the blood of their fellow Palestinians, the collapse of the Palestinian-Israeli peace track-stands to undermine the whole peace process in the Middle East and not only on the Palestinian track.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has been sounding the alarm about the deteriorating situation, warning that Gaza and Jericho could become "a fertile land for terrorism," if the promised international aid to the Palestinians is not delivered fast. The urgency of making good on international donor pledges has prompted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to plead for early transfer of necessary funds to the PNA as a token of critical support. The fact that U.S. President Bill Clinton has supported expeditious funding is a good omen for Mr. Arafat, who needs to reassert his authority in the autonomous areas. As there can be no two authorities competing with one another in those areas, or anywhere else for that matter, the Islamist groups must confine their opposition to democratic means or else risk catastrophe for the whole Palestinian people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Tuesday said that partial solutions to the Palestinian problem in general and the tension in Gaza in particular are not sufficient to end the bloodshed and violence in the occupied territories. The Israelis had nothing to say after the Friday events in Gaza except to blame the donor nations for delaying their supply of funds to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) which could end the local issues by launching projects and financing infrastructure schemes, said Mahmoud Rimawi. It should be noted that the accumulating problems in the occupied regions over the past 27 years do not stem from the delay of sending funds but basically due to the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands which must end and the Jewish settlements that should be removed to ensure security and peace, said the writer. He said that the problems facing the Palestinians are not all economic in nature, especially as we remember that the intifada erupted eight years ago when the economic situation in the Palestinian regions was far better than it is now. Temporary solutions like pumping funds to finance projects can have limited effect, but the end of occupation would have a lasting settlement to the violence and tension, added the

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour described the successful visit to Qatar by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali as a natural outcome of the endeavours of the two countries' leaders to maintain strong ties between them regardless of the divisions in the Arab World and despite the past events in the Gulf. Taher Al Adwan said that one can say now that relations with Qatar has become stronger than ever before while Jordan continues the drive to end differences with all the Arab states in the Gulf region. Perhaps Oman and Oatar, among the Gulf states, currently maintain the strongest relations with the Kingdom, but the rest are surely mending fences with Jordan now that the tension caused by the Gulf crisis in 1990 is over, said the writer. Jordan has never stopped building bridges of understanding and brotherly relations with all the Arab states and perhaps the Arabs are now more than at any time in the past in need of solidarity to deal with the common challenges of peace with Israel, said the writer. He expressed hope that Arab reconciliation would pave the way for a serious and collective Arab effort to end the embargo on Iraq

WASHINGTON WATCH

Peace is at risk as long as its fruits are not felt by Palestinians

The peace process, despite the great hopes that it engendered and its much celebrated achievements, is at a tragic impasse. It is an impasse rather than a collapse because some aspects of the process are irreversible. Instead of moving forward, the Israeli-Palestinian relationship has, to all appearances, entered a new stasis — and within that stasis the dynamic is a downward spiral.

And in this situation the Palestinians are the biggest losers, victims once again of the asymmetry of power that has marked their entire political history.

There is a great deal of irony in all this, since it was the Palestinians' signing of a declaration of principles with Israel in 1993 which opened the door and made possible the progress achieved thus far: the Israel-Jordan peace agreement, movement towards ending the Arab boycott of Israel, the expansion of Israel's relations with Muslim nations from two to 14 and the historic Middle East economic summit in Casablanca.

And yet, with world attention focused on those developments, the Israeli-Palestinian relationship itself has deteriorated. It is as if energy has been mobilised towards constructing the 5th and 6th floors of a building whose foundations are unfinished and even crumbling. Or, to return to the original metaphor, Palestinians opened the door to a new Middle East, held it open for others but have not been permitted to enter themselves.

The centrepiece of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles was its "mutual recognition" of two peoples with equal rights. In the preamble to the agreement, Israel and the PLO agreed to: "Recognise their mutual legitimate and political rights, and strive to live in peaceful coexistence and mutual dignity and security and achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement and historic reconciliation...'

The implementation of these mutual rights was to be phased, with each phase designed to create the confidence that enables the parties to move forward to the next phase. Israelis expected that the process would create greater security and regional acceptance of their state, while Palestinians expected that the process would yield economic prosperity and implementation of their political rights

to an independent state. But upon entering into negotiations to implement the declaration of principles, the Palestinian discovered that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin lacked the political courage to apply "mutuality" as spelled out in the agreement. The optimism of the Palestinian negotiators was crushed as the Israelis continued to squeeze the Palestinians to accept less

and less at each stage of talks. Nabil Shaath, minister of international cooperation in Yasser Arafat's government, for example, projected that the process would work despite the objections of a strong Palestinian opposition. He described how, as peace expanded, Palestinians would receive the expanded benefits of peace. Opposition would dissipate and those who used violence to subvert the peace would be isolated by the larger community that would be invested in the fruits of peace. The strength of the Palestinian authority and the strength of the peace process itself depended upon the ability to change Palestinian daily life and move Palestinians from a state of oppressive occupation to real

In this view, the Israeli quest for security and recognition is intrinsically linked with the Palestinian quest for prosperity and peace — they are two sides of the same coin — to the extent that Israel continues to control the process, to impose humiliating conditions on the Palestinian authority, and to dominate daily life in the West Bank and Jerusalem: to that same extent will the Palestinian authority and the peace process itself lose legitimately in the eyes of the Palestinians. And to that same extent, Israelis will not achieve the security they long for, as Palestinian militants will continue to strike out against them and be supported by a frustrated and alienated Palestinian constituency.

It is now fourteen months since the Sept. 13 signing, and the fruits of peace are too few to maintain momentum for the process in a Palestinian population still losing its rights. — Gaza still has 65 per cent unemployment and open sewers. A recent outbreak of cholera threatens to further

devastate an already fragile hope for change. Even the few thousands Palestinians who worked for poverty-level wages as day labourers in Israel have been repeatedly denied access to jobs—jobs made necessary by an Israeli policy of de-development of the West Bank and Gaza economies during its 27 years of occupation.

— Israel has failed to offer even a minimum of confidence building continue to the Palestinians. The

confidence-building gestures to the Palestinians. The Israelis have refused to surrender even token amounts of confiscated lands or allow the digging of new wells. Palestinian prisoners (most of whom are political prisoners), instead of finding freedom, were either forced to sign humiliating statements or were freed in Jericho where they had neither family nor employment. And the Israelis continue to exercise control over too many areas of activity, which promotes a lack of public belief in the independence of the Palestinian authority.

"Furthermore, Israel should act to stop new settlements and close the more provocative settlements now. For only when Palestinians experience freedom, the benefits of peace and the hope that justice will be done can their support for the peace process and their leadership be restored. Only then can the Palestine National Authority act with legitimacy to establish order, and only then will Israelis achieve the security they hoped peace would bring."

- Israeli settlement-building continues unabated, Mr. Rabin's Labour government, while pledging an end to all settlement construction as a condition of receiving U.S. loan guarantees, has, during the past two years, either completed or started construction on roughly 30,000 new housing units in the West Bank and Gaza and in the "annexed" area around East Jerusalem. Another 15,000 housing units are being planned. And with this construction comes new roads, expanded infrastructure and a stronger Israeli military presence - and reenforced Palestinian conviction that Israel has no plans to surrender land and is committed only to a peace it defines and controls.

East Jerusalem, the religious, cultural, economic and welfare centre of Palestinian life has been virtually cut out from the rest of the Palestinian society. In fact, Jerusalem has become a virtual no-man's land. New legislation being pushed through the Israeli Knesset, which would prohibit any political meetings in Jerusalem with the Palestinian leadership, only adds further insult to existing injury.

- The process leading to Palestinian elections has been repeatedly delayed by Israel's concern over the declaration of principle's linkage between elections and withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian cities. While elections are necessary for the legitimacy of the process and the Palestiman authority, Israel's concerns have once again worn-out, quite simply because they have the power to set the time and terms of the process.

- And finally, World Bank funds - so vital for — And maily. World Bank funds — so vital for buildings infrastructure, creating jobs and inspiring hope in the peace process — have simply not materialised on the scale needed to jumpstart the process of moving forward. While some problems of accountability and transparency remain, creative solutions to promote independently administrated project-based fundaministered project-based fundaministered project-based fundaministered project-based fundaministered project-based fundaministers. nistered project-based fundraising were suggested, but no effort has yet been made to raise and expend the investment Gaza so desperately needs. And so, instead of

By Dr. James Zogby

being strengthened, the process was weakened.

The problem today is not merely episodic extremist violence or the dangerous signs of civil conflict. The more serious problem is that both Palestinians and Israelis have lost the hope they once had that real peace is possible.

Israelis may feel today more accepted in the broader Middle East, they can travel to Petra or Casabianca and attend conferences in other Arab capitals. But now they

fear getting on a bus to go to the local market. An implied potential external threat has been replaced by a real internal threat. And Palestinians see their once-raised expectations dashed, and a once-revered leadership undermined and, at times, humiliated.

This is the new stasis - an unraveling of hope and an expansion of anger and cynicism in both Israeli and Palestinian societies.

The fault must lie with the party in power. It was called a "peace of the brave," but instead of seizing the moment after September 1993 and moving rapidly towards implementation of the agreement. Mr. Rabin allowed Israel's right wing to drive his agenda. What Israel should have realised, but didn't, was that its long-term security was dependent upon Palestinians achieving their rights. Instead of listening to Benyamin Netanyahu (who advises Mr. Rabin to build a wall around Gaza and close it off Yossi or Olmert (who is determined to deny any Palestinian role in Jerusalem), Mr. Rabin would do well to listen to Mr. Peres who recognises that without economic opportunity and an accelerated peace process, the Palestinian authority will remain weak and without sufficient legitimacy.

At each step in the process, Israel hesitated or dictated rather than negotiated. Such actions have served only to weaken the Palestinian side; and so today the Palestinian authority's problem is not that extremists are committing acts of violence against Israel or challenging their authority in Gaza, but that these enemies of the peace process have greater mass support than they should - should have, that is, if the peace process were working and bearing fruit.

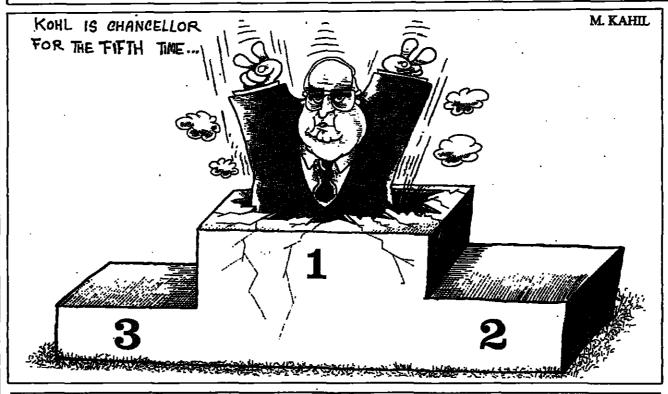
The question that now remains to be asked is, has there already been too much erosion for the peace process to be salvaged? Or has the region merely moved from one stage of conflict to another, without the just resolution that so many hoped for?

The solution, if there is one, applies a counterintuitive logic to the problem. For Israel to be more secure and for peace to be won, Mr. Rabin must take greater risks and surrender more rights and power to the Palestinians in the process and in their leadership. Elections and Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian population centres should take place as soon as possible without any more conditions being

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Israel's proposal for "early empowerment" is not enough. It is not enough for Palestinians to be reduced to administering the occupation - they must be given freedom, and only Israel can give that. And economic investment must be accelerated, with the international community adopting a sense of urgency in this regard.

Furthermore, Israel should act to stop new settlements and close the more provocative settlements now. For only when Palestinians experience freedom, the benefits of peace and the hope that justice will be done can their support for the peace process and their leadership be restored. Only then can the Palestine National Authority act with legitimacy to establish order, and only then will Israelis achieve the security they hoped peace would bring.



Green flirtation shows shift in German voting

By Tom Heneghan Reuter

BONN - An unlikely flirtation between Germany's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the once-radical Greens reflects a shift in voting patterns that could have farreaching effects as veteran Chancellor Helmut Kohl's

Mr. Kohl's cliffhanger reelection on Oct. 16 left the CDU and its badly weakened Free Democrat (FDP) coalition partners only 10 seats ahead of a resurgent threeparty opposition.
With the small liberal FDP

still reeling from crippling losses in state elections this year, the CDU has suddenly discovered the Greens as potential partners for the fu-

Two weeks ago, the CDU helped elect a Green as deputy speaker of parliament. Now it plans to help the party get a seat on Bonn's top secret intelligence watchdog

Even Mr. Kohl has begun making positive noises about the Greens, whom he denounced in his campaign speeches as reckless radicals

"There have been developments here and there that would have been unthinkable 10 years ago," he told ZDF television on Sunday. "How can I know what will happen in 10 more years?"

Wolfgang Schaeuble, the wily CDU parliamentary leader wooing the Greens, was just as coy. "The CDU is developing, too, and always in new ways," he told Der Spiegel magazine.

Both sides emphatically rule out a political marriage in the foreseeable future, which roughly means be-tween now and Mr. Kohl's announced retirement in

The Greens, who entered parliament in 1983 wearing jeans and handing out flowers but have matured into pragmatic reformers, argue they still have much more in common with the left-leaning Social Democrats (SPD) than the CDU.

But, as the Greens' new deputy speaker of parliament Antie Vollmer said on Monday: "Lots of people are thinking now about the future, asking where the majorities will come from and

who would take Germany out what will happen when the of NATO. what will happen when the FDP finally crashes." CDU officials admit wide

differences with the Greens but point to about two dozen towns in north Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's largest state, that toppled SPD administrations with CDU-Green coalitions in local polls there on Oct. 16.
"If we want to avoid going

into a grand coalition with the SPD, we have to see where we can get a majority," one said.
In the October election,

the Greens passed the FDP for the first time to become Bonn's third-largest party, advancing to 7.3 per cent to win 49 seats compared to the liberals' 47 seats in the 672member parliament.

The liberals fell to 6.9 per cent from their 1990 high of 11 per cent. CDU strategists estimate almost half of the FDP's score came from CDU supporters who voted FDP with the second of their two ballots to ensure the party returned to parliament.

The CDU won 41.5 per cent and the SPD 36.4 per

Analysis of the results showed the Greens have successfully poached many of

the moderate academics, white collar workers and women who used to vote for the FDP. The liberals, who failed to

reach the five per cent mini-mum needed to win seats in the past nine state elections and face two more threatening state polls next year, are now more centrist and business-oriented than ever

"The sociological structure (of the FDP) has clearly moved closer to that of the CDU," the Freiburg elections working group, a team of political scientists from the city's university, said in an extensive study of the poll

"In contrast to other par-ties, the Greens had strong growth in their strongholds and in those of the FDP." The CDU-Greens flirta-

tion has naturally angered the SPD, which feels outmanoeuvred by Mr. Schaeuble and jilted by the Greens, whom many Social Democrats had only themselves to blame because, in this campaign as in earlier ones, they have always shied away from supporting a "red-Green" alliance at the national level.

LETTERS

Peace and a brighter future

To the Editor:

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt emotions stirred by the dramatic turning point in our lives, as Jordanians.

Oct. 26, 1994 is a very important day in the lives of every person in this region (including those who probably cannot accept the realities now). It has brought a new chapter in our lives, with no turning back. We should walk ahead into the future built strongly for all by His Majesty King Hussein.

It is well known that life can never be a smooth run. especially after four decades of animosity and insecurity on both sides. We, as mature adults, need to start on a solid ground because if we don't, our children do not have a chance to do so alone. I, as a mother (who being a foreigner, has probabaly only seen and felt the instabilities of the region for a shorter span), rejoice in the Kingdom's wise decision.

I was surprised to learn that my own children had total confusion in their minds regarding issues like "state of Israel and other issues. I feel strongly that we, parents and teachers and other factors, are responsible for these serious, unfortunate misconceptions, it is high time, we adults changed our view points first, and made them more flexible. It is high time we opened our hearts and arms to our neighbours. Let us give stability and peace as a gift to our future generations. Let us not forget, it is going to be a long, slow process, but with the courage and faith of our beloved King and our steadfastness and assistance I do not see why, this beautiful opportunity should be missed by all of us (the extended Jordanian family).

We all carry an individual responsibility and duty to our country and our kids. This love and caring we share, can be spread to our neighbours, with dignity and trust... By this we all gain, rather than lose, the basic individual right of loving and being loved.

Let us stand behind our leader and build our children's future on a strong foundation, by beginning a new era of peace and stability in all our lives.

Let us look at the positive aspects of the peace treaty.

Our borders are defined and a lot of constructive strategy put up for our betterment. These positive merits should outweigh our negative criticism.

Dr. Barbara Burgan,

Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under specials. circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

Vest's 'intellectual

errorism' targets

R. Dr. James Zoe estinians

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Weeks Hank hundy

rabs, Muslims By Sa'eda Kilani

'A time when American g time enemies, Arabs I israelis, to the peace e, theatres everywhere America are portraying A. d. as terrorists.

si is Arnold Schwarzenegger as a spy for a secret government agency who rids the country of terrorists threatening the United States with nuclear

weapons.

The image of barbaric Arabs who belong to some Muslim terrorist group is Hollywood's villain for the action and adventure film. No Americans are killed or wounded seriously - by the terrorist group, the

Crimson Jihad. Nowhere in the 2½-hour film was there an explanation for the live direct questions any basic narrative should answer any basic narrative should answer.

Who is this group? Where did they come from? What is their move? When did they arrive? And why are they planting nuclear weapons in the United States?

Instead, there are some brown-coloured frightening people. They utter some weird Arabic words in a very vulgar and violent

What language is this? As a Jordanian, I did not

wite understand some of the words. The accent was a mixture of Lebanese, Jordanian, Egyptian, Saudi, North African and American with some bedouin flavour.

The release of "True Lies" comes as Arabs and Israelis are stretching their hands for peace. The United States is the main broker of that

it is through the relentless efforts of successive U.S. officials that Arab and Israeli leaders shook hands here in the United States last month.
American policymakers sacceded in bringing all con-

flicting parties to the table to work out border, water, refugee and security issues, to sign peace treaties and to solve intricate problems face

to face.
Israelis and Arabs are opening borders between them. They are forgetting past hostilities and are working for a peaceful future. They are exploring all possible masses to being an end to ble means to bring an end to the terrorism, wars and instability that have wrecked the Middle East for more than 40

If Arabs are terrorists, then why would the Americans support their cause, help them improve their economies, smooth over their differences and give them financial aid?

Why do the American media — movies in particular - choose to permanently stereotype Arabs as terrorists when terrorism occurs in nearly all countries of the

Misguided concepts

and they can be liberal.

But filmmakers have apparently found that misguided concepts sell better. It is difficult to ignore the

fact that the film is funny and amusing in all its other aspects. But it is also difficult to believe, understand, enjoy and even sympathise with the characters when the film is filled with true lies.

journalist currently on an Alfred Friendly scholarship with the Charlotte Observer of North Carolina, where this article originally appeared.
The Arab-American AntiDiscrimination Committee (ADC) is screening the film this afternoon at Abdul Hameed Shoman Founda-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel to allow meat imports

TEL AVIV (AP) - Israel will start importing meat, even non-kosher products, as part of a privatisation of the meat industry, the ministry of trade announced Monday. The decision came in wake of a supreme court ruling that rejected a ban on such imports and was expected to anger Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's potential coalition partners, the ultra-religious Shas party. In the past, the government has used its monopoly to prevent import of non-kosher meat, that which fails to meet Jewish ritual standards. When Mr. Rabin began privatising the meat industry, Shas demanded tradition be written into law. Shas legislator Shlomo Ben-Ezri said he thought the party had been tricked and urged the government to take action. Mr. Rabin would like Shas to join his minority government to assure wide backing for peace moves. The new law, that goes into effect Jan. 1, was the first to lift regulations protecting the local market. Butchers have said the meat prices would drop dramatically, some estimate by up to 30 per cent, once imported non-kosher meat was allowed into the country.

Disc on Dead Sea scrolls released

TEL AVIV (AP) - Israel's antiquities authority has released an animated computer disc on the Dead Sea scrolls, a spokeswoman said Monday. Access to the scrolls. that many scholars believe could shed light on ancient Jewish sects and groups that may have influenced early Christian thought, was initially controlled by a small group of researchers. Repeated complaints and the publication of a deciphered version of one of the works led to an expansion of the research group that plans to publish its last findings around the year 2000. And with the disc's distribution, information on the ancient scrolls that were found in caves near the Dead Sea starting in 1947. is available to everyone who owns a computer. The English-language disc includes animation, tours of sites the scrolls were found and are presently housed, interviews with researchers and three-dimensional graphics. It costs \$49 and went on world markets this week, said antiquities authority spokeswoman Efrat Orbach. Target audiences include libraries, researchers and just interested parties of all ages, she added.

Downtown find — 'key to Amman history'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

IT MUST have been a plea sure to look the original 18 Corinthian columns, florally decorated, before a fivemetre-high wall covered with 15 different types of spakling white maybe. The wall is divided into three parts with eight niches, each of them holding beautiful statues representing water goddesses and animals.

That, says Mohammad

deep, which was con-

tinuously refilled with fresh

"We still do not know

whether this is truely a

nymphaeum or another

kind of monument dedi-

cated to water," says Jaques Seigne," director of the French Middle East

Archaeology Institute in Amman (IFAPO) which

provides technical assist-

ance to the ongoing excava-

tions downtown at the nym-

phaeum, "but we know for

sure that this is a very in-

teresting site which should

be given high priority by Amman municipality."

Rather than a voluptuous

recreation place, the con-

temporary nymphaeum re-

sembles an untidy construc-

tion site, with heaps of

bricks, sand and stones.

finding their way between

the relentless traffic of Saqf

Al Sail and the booming

business of Al Qoreish

Street, downtown Amman.

A tourist hotel was erected.

right next to the fountain,

actually violating the Jorda-

nian law of antiquities

which prescribes that build-

ings must be erected at a

distance of not less than 25

metres away from impor-

Only the blue sign of the

Jordanian Department of

Architecture indicates that

here lies a site of archaeolo-

gical interest.

Wahib, an archaeologist from the Department of Antiquities, was the centre of Amman 1,700 years ago. In the second century A.D., under Roman rule, the nymphaeum, as the ient was called, was

most probably a luxuriouspublic gathering place for the citizens of Philadelphia, as the city used to be called by the Romans. And if archaeologist Mohammad Wahib's hypothesis is true, the monument of water adoration was decorating an impressive 600-squaremetre pool, three metres

Many Americans are familiar with the differing tradi-tions, thinking and way of living of the Arab peoples. They also know that Arabs can be Muslims, Christians or Jews. They can be white or brown; they can be moderate

Sa'eda Kilani is a freelance

more," he says, adding that the area should be given high priority by urban plan-ners. "Once this fabulous had been partly built of florally decorated stone bases of the Corinthian colplace is restored, the whole umns. "This wall here was

area should be converted into a pedestrian zone. This is an area of high urban interest, not only because of tourism, but also for the sake of Amman's citizens. he says. But he admits that his ideas are unlikely to be realised, not only because of the recent street works, but also because the inhabitants of nearby Qoreish Street and the market place nearby so far do not exactly seem to be prepared to give up their homes and business for the sake of archaeology.

Until recently, there was little concern to even excavate this important part of Amman's heritage. Sketches drawn by Hoab Crosby Butler, an archaeologist from Princeton University during an archaeological expedition to Amman from 1904 to 1909, reveal that only 100 years ago the original structure of the nymphaeum was far better conserved than today. Parts of the antique monument were used by Amman inhabitants for construction.

The building was further damaged during an earth-quake in 1927. Some attempts to restore the nymphaeum were undertaken at the beginning of the eighties, but with modest success.

"Look at this arch", says Mr. Wahib, who supervises the ongoing excavations at the nymphaeum, "the ceiling has been repaired without respect for the symmetry of the structure. This is a

The current excavations at the nymphaeum, which started in 1993 and are supposed to be finalised in 1996, were made possible after year-long discussions between the municipality and different interest groups. In 1991. General Mohammad Al Bashir, then mayor of Amman, earmarked JD 600,000 to pay off the Circassian owners of a number of storehouses built on the site. In 1993, with an annual budget of about JD30.000, according to Mr. Wahib. and with the technical assistance of IFA-PO, the excavations could finally start. The dig had to follow three stages, the second of which will be completed in February

"This place is a key to the Ghazi Saudi, a tour operhistory of Amman because it reveals not only Roman ator and member of the Cultural Heritage Commithistory. This place is also a tee with the Royal Scientific key of Islamic Amman, of which we still know very Society, insists that the nymphaeum is unique. little," says Mr. Wahib. He There are maybe 20 places climbs down a fosse and like this in the world, not points at a recently exca-



Two Roman statue heads, probably nymphs, the first decorative elements at the site

vated piece of wall, which built by the Ummayads, who probably installed a police station here and erected a defence wall," he explains. "The Abbasides. to our knowledge, used the

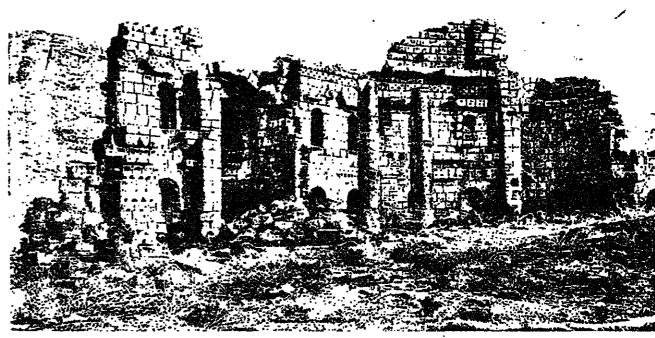
place as a storage space and the Ottomans built a garrison here which was later converted into a prison." Since the beginning of the excavations, in September 1993, findings have shed light on the history of Amman: Byzantine pot-

tery, coins, pieces of glass

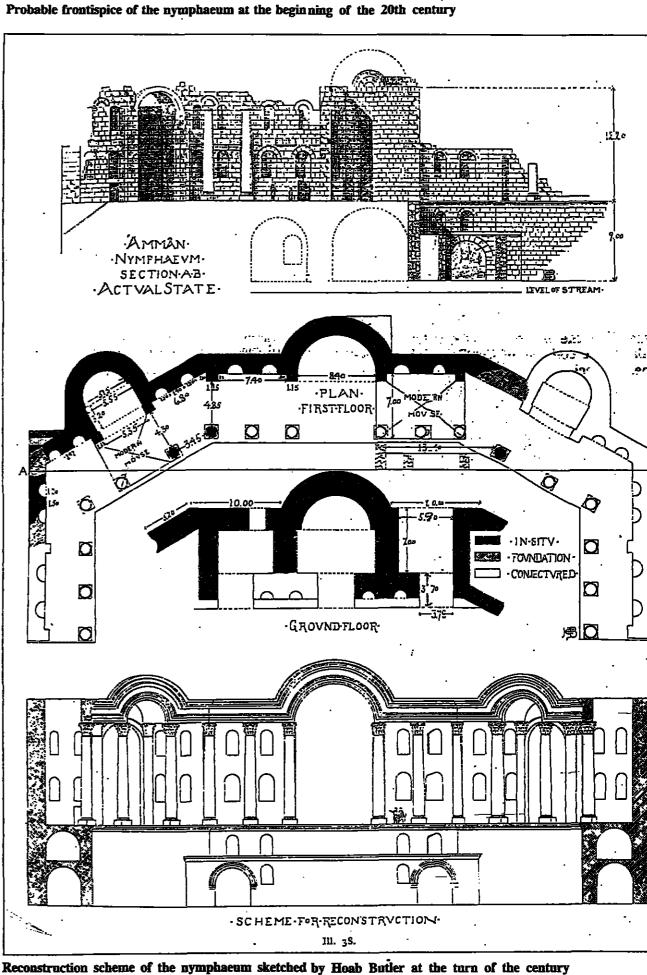
and mosaics were found, as

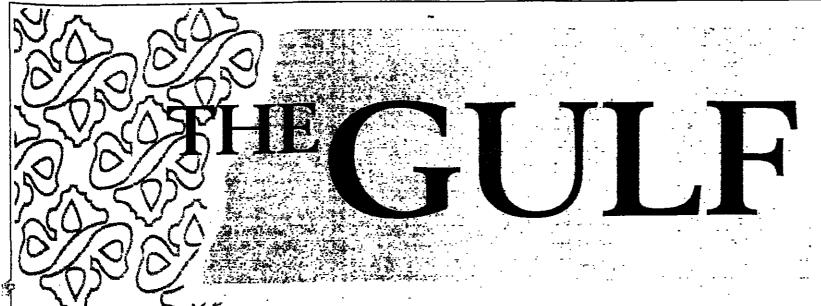
well as Ummayyad lamps. The most spectacular findings, earlier this year, were two heads of Roman statues, probably nymphs (Roman water goddesses). "This has been the first time we found decorative elements at the site, which was very exciting," Mr. Wahib says.

During the excavations, the different layers found on the site are carefully studied and documented before being removed. After removing the Ottoman, Abbasid and Ummayyad layers, the ultimate goal is to restore the site to its original structure, as a nym-phaeum, by 2010.



Probable frontispice of the nymphaeum at the beginning of the 20th century





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OPEC freezes '95 oil output to boost prices

DENPASAR, Indonesia (R) - Cash-strapped OPEC producers were all smiles Tuesday after clinching an agreement to freeze 1995 oil production and resolving the politically thorny issue of picking a new secretary-

Both decisions were backed by all 12 group members and oil traders rewarded OPEC for its rare display of unity by adding 30 cents to The oil price since Friday.

"This (production) agreement is expected to raise oil prices gradually but not to the OPEC target level of \$21 "per barrel." OPEC president and Indonesian Oil Minister Ida Bagus Sudjana told re-

When asked if the deal could push oil prices to \$18 to \$19 per barrel Mr. Sudjana said. "I hope so."

OPEC has kept its produc-tion ceiling at 24.52 million barrels per day (b/d) since September 1993 but oil prices bave continued to slide due to higher non-OPEC production. OPEC quota cheating and fears that Iraqi oil ex-, 'ports will resume.

By capping its oil output next year. OPEC is hoping that rising world oil demand will once again pull prices

Libyan Oil Minister Abdalla Salem El Badri said he expected world oil demand to rise 700,000 b/d this year to about 66 million b/d and climb another one million b/d

Oil prices now are little better in real terms than they

A

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were before the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

'Slumping markets have chopped OPEC's oil earnings by more than half since 1980. when the group held the world to ransom with high oil

Even mighty Saudi Arabia. the world's largest and richest oil producer, has had to pinch pennies to meet budgets and pay off Gulf war debts.

Influential Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said he was happy with the new deal and hoped prices would rise.

Sheikh Nazer said the thought prices would rise because "we think demand is good in the market."

But he added OPEC was concerned about non-OPEC oil production, which has been rising rapidly in the last few years. Further increases in non-OPEC output next year could curb the price gains OPEC is counting on.

Oil traders are also worried about abnormally mild weather so far in the United States, Europe and Japan. A mild northern winter could leave world refiners with glutted inventories in the spring and the excess crude could weigh on oil prices for much of next year.

"OPEC is on a bit of a honeymoon now with world oil markets because they have settled their differences so easily," one oil trader in

Singapore said. Oil prices will rise for a while but then stop and wait to see how the winter is and if there is excess non-OPEC

regional pacts, GATT says

North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) might raise further concerns about preferential regional accords and the risks of trade diver-

In a review of Canada's trade policies since 1992, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) also said trade had driven the economic recovery now underway there.

And Canada should benefit from new markets for its exports under the Uruguay Round world trade treaty,

according to GATT. The cuts in tariff and nontariff barriers in foreign markets should help sustain the current export-led economic recovery," it said. Trade di-plomats_were discussing the. 215-page report in two-day private talks ending Tuesday. Canada's principal trade

policy objectives have been

met with the completion of

the GATT world trade agree-

ment would destroy the cre-

dibility of the multinational

trading system. GATT Direc-

tor Peter Sutherland said

"If the Uruguay Round

were to fail — and fail it will

if the ratification is not com-

pleted by Dec. 2 - we will

lose not merely the benefits

(of the pact, but will destroy

the multi-lateral trade sys-

tem," Mr. Sutherland said.

conference sponsored by the

Council of Foreign Relations,

civic group, reiterated that

it is crucial that the United

States ratify the agreement

before the December dead-

The GATT agreement has

come under fire from Repub-

lican lawmakers who claim

the treaty could compromise

U.S. sovereignty — a claim

the administration denies.

Congress will take up the

had expressed confidence it

will be able to put together

the bipartisan voting bloc needed to pass the GATT

Trade legislation this year.
The vote it be the last

major effect of the current Democrat-led Congress be-

fore the new Republican-

controlled Congress takes

lieved passage of the legisla-tion by the House of Repre-

sentatives will not be difficult

the administration needs the

support of 60 out of 100

The administration had

While it is generally be-

over next year.

senators.

The Clinton administration

issue on Nov. 29.

Mr. Sutherland, at a press

Monday.

economists.

NAFTA raises concerns on

"However, developments in the context of the NAFTA may raise further concerns about the balance between regional and global liberalisation and the risks of trade diversion," it added.
NAFTA, a regional accord

setting up a free trade zone among Canada, Mexico and the United States, came into force last January and will phase out tariffs over a 15year-period.

GATT, referring to NAF-TA, said: "The long-term gains to Canada are expected to be in industries producing goods intensive in the use of

skilled labour and capital."
Last March, GATT set up a working party, open to the 124 member states, to examine NAFTA's cosistency with GATT rules. However, diplomats consider it unlikely

to condemn the pact. In the last two years, Cana-

GATT failure would destroy

GENEVA (R) — The GATT NAFTA and the global liberworld trade body said Tuesday that developments in the
the report written by GATT

the report written by GATT

and chamical products and chemical products. according to the GATT re-

> The country's long-distance telecommunications market has been liberalised and its patent protection law has been revised.

> Under the Uruguay Round accord. Canada has agreed to eliminate tariffs in a number of key sectors and to reduce remaining tariffs by an average of 40 per cent over the next five to 10 years, according to the report.

As a result, the govern-ment estimates that import duties in 1995-96 will be about 200 million Canadian dollars lower (\$145 million).

In the agricultural sector. more than 100 import quotas are due to be replaced by tariff rate quotas with above quota duties averaging 205 per cent in 1995, falling to 174 per cent in the year 2000.

Saudi wheat exports to stop, minister says

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia is cutting its subsidised wheat production to save water and cash and there will be no surplus to export from 1996, the agriculture minister

Saudi Arabia surprised the agricultural world two decades ago by launching an ambitious strategy of turning the desert green to settle nomads to a rural life and to establish strategic selfsufficiency in wheat.

The plan was so generous to farmers it backfired as they took advantage of subsidies. Wheat output rocketed from 3,000 tonnes to a peak of more than four million tonnes in 1992, over double domestic consumption.

A resulting flood of exports raised cries of foul play by competing wheat expor-

"It is important to emphasise that our wheat strategy was always aimed at selfsufficiency and we did not want to compete on the world markets," Abdullah Abdul Aziz Bin Moammar, the minister told Reuters in an interview Tuesday.

Flying in to Riyadh Airport green circles of wheat in the searing desert are plainly visible watered by modern pivotcentred irrigation and a symbol of how Saudi Arabia's fabulous wealth can change the barren landscape.

But now with cash shortages due to Gulf war expenditure lower oil revenues and growing concern about the kingdom's water reserves, the Saudi government has reined in wheat production and expects to trim it to

self-sufficiency by 1996. Wheat production is being lowered by a strict regime of subsidy cuts and tight control

of wheat farming permits. Diplomats said govern-ment wheat subsidies this year were slashed to \$850 million from \$1.87 billion in 1993 and further cuts were

expected next year. There will be no exports," the minister said. "It was not our aim to export and we were worned once we met that level of self-sufficiency. Nobody expected the target to he reached so quickly, we thought maybe after 20 years

Diplomats said some Saudi farmers have protested about the change in policy but Sheikh Moammar said the government had been careful to implement the measures

slowly. Using the crop year which runs from October to around June, Sheikh Moammar put the amount of wheat bought by the government at subsidised prices at 3.3 million tonnes for 1991/92, three for 92.93, 2.8 for 93/94, 2.5 for 94/95, 2.3 for 95/96,

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Egypt exploits only 10% of its oil resources

and OPEC production." he

said they were also still con-

cerned that some OPEC

members were cheating on

their assigned output quotas. Nigeria. Venezuela and tiny

Gabon are all believed by

outside sources to be exceed-

Most OPEC members are

now pumping full out with

the exception of Saudi Ara-

bia but oil traders will be

watching in coming weeks to

see if higher oil prices prompt

some to milk their wells a

"There are a great many members including Saudi

Arabia who are very much

keen on abiding by the quota." Saudi's Nazer said.

Libva's oil minister later

added OPEC has some prop-

osals to deal with overpro-

duction but he would not

discuss the issue of reinteg-

rating Iraq into world oil markets when United Na-

tions sanctions are removed.

largest oil producer, said

once the U.N. exports ban is

lifted it will ask OPEC for

permission to pump oil at will until it reaches parity with

Iraq, once the world's sixth

OPEC delegates said.

OPEC members did not

little bit more.

specify them.

rival Iran.

Several OPEC members

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt is exploiting only 10 per cent of its oil resources, a senior oil industry official was quoted

as saying.
"We have a lot of oil to be found here. We have found just 10 per cent or less. "We still have a lot of reserves, said Shawki Abdine, president of the 12th International Conference on Oil Prospecting and Production, quoted by Egyptian newspapers.

Mr. Abdine, who was speaking at the conference, said Egypt's Western Desert might yield the equivalent of 42 billion barrels of oil, the Red Sea 35 billion barrels, the Nile Delta region 33 billion, and the Sinai peninsula 20 million, according to a study by the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company (GUP-

Mr. Abdine is also president of GUPCO, a joint venture between the U.S. Oil company AMOCO and the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC).

trade system — Sutherland said it needs about five votes NEW YORK (R) — Failure to secure Senate approval for by the United States to pass the legislation for the World Trade Organisation, which succeeds the General Agree-ment on Tariffs and Trade

(GATT) Mr. Sutherland said failure to implement the Urugay Round and establish the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as stipulated in the treaty would undermine the credibility of the entire tradng system, he said.

We have a fragile system in a rapidly-changing world. (The trading system) has only the development of contracts between behind it and the institutional framework depends on credibility." said

Mr. Sutherland. That loss of credibility would create a new "extremely-dangerous" era without assurances on tariffs and trade barriers.

Without such assurances international businesses might avoid international ventures. That would hurt the United States, he said. Moreover, a failure to maintain an international trade regime could produce politic-

al problems.
Where is political tension most likely to be felt? It is within trade," and Mr. Sutherland.

The GATT chief reiterated his view the WTO does not impinge on any country's

"Sovereignty is not an issue anywhere." he said. Mr. Sutherland said it would be "inappropriate to comment" on Republican Senator Robert Dole's attempt to tie his support for

THE BETTER HALF.

sion from the Clinton administration on a capital gains tax cut.

Mr. Sutherland said the trade pact had been a bipartisan effort from the start "and I cannot believe that it will be damaged by internal poli-

He stressed that while he is eager to trumpet GATT's benefits for world trade in general and the United States in particular, he would not seek to influence directly the vote in congress. "I have no intention of going to Washington.

Clinton gets GATT support from opponent

President Clinton received support for the world trade treaty Monday from an support for the world trade treaty Monday from an unexpected source — one of this staunchest Republican foes.

Congressman Newt Gingrich, who is expected to be named speaker of the House of Representatives in the new Republican-dominated Congress, said Monday that failure to pass GATT "would have catastrophe consequences for the American economy and the world eco-

Appearing at a news con-ference just before returning to Washington, Mr. Gingrich pledged to work with Mr. Clinton in a bipartisan effort

get the trade pact passed. "I'm going to work actively with the president in a bipartisan manner to try to get this very .. very important trade agreement passed. My hope is that next week we will pass it." he said.

By Glasbergen

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Moon is void of course most of the day so avoid linking any important decisions or starting own new paths as they are likely be plagued with faise starts.

ARTES: (March 21 to April 19) - SCORPIO: (Octo new and conservative ideas for getting more revenue with the aid of friends while later you can add some modern method.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a day for you to consider various means for gaining your personal aims for you can prog-ress through these and a fellow associate will aid.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can closet yourself with an influential person and get the backing you need for a private project after which add your own up to date ideas.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out to arrange a jaunt with a friend of good judgment for whatever your joint purpose then include some unique goal to trip.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)
Whatever you have in mind in a
worldy matter is best done with
the additional opinion or assistance of an expert in the field of

Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

get the greatest amount of be-nefit from this venture. LIERA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) Seek out business per-sons with whom you would like to be associated and let them know how well you can work at

will back your goals. November 21) You can best get an associate who needs much persuasion to do what you wish by meeting at a plane of mutually enjoyable recreation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) The type of activities in which you now, are, or wish to engage are best made to operate to your satisfaction with the help of a family mem-

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A day for you to enhance your interest in the entertainments and amusements from which you get the greatest pleasure even though its a dis-tance to go to them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) It is necessary to first approach matters at home from a routine and accepted proven stance after which you can add some special ideas of

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own judgment is very good now about how best to VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A new project of importance to you requires the support of an outside partner if you are to

Peanuts



Andy Capp







Mutt'n'Jeff





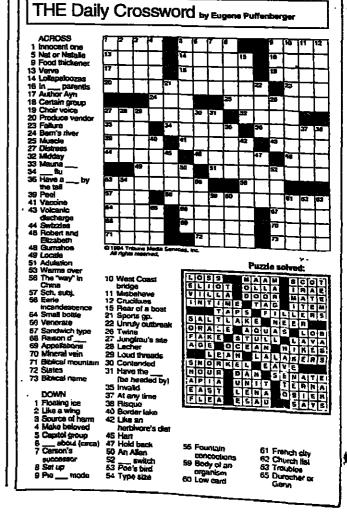




Jumbles: TEASE FLANK FLIMSY Answer: How the shoemakers described themselves — "SOLE" MATES

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME Dy Henri Arrold and Miles Arrold. Unscramble these four Jumble one letter to each square, to for four ordinary words. **FORLO** TOOBA CUSSEN WHY THE TIRED PARTY-GOER WANTED TO LEAVE. BHLEED Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Business & Finance

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Jordan Times Cairo Amman Bank

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Cerrency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.31	5.75	6.06	6.43
Sterling Pound	5.43	5.81	5.93	6.65
Deutsche Mark	4.81	5:00	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	5.43	3.68	3.87	4.31
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.13	2.20	£.3£	2.56
European Currency Unit	5.50	5.68	5.93	6.50

Precious M	etals			Date: 22	711/1994
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	384.00	7.60	Silver	5.16	0.117

	Date: 22/11/1994		
Систенсу	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000	
Sterling Pound	1.0949	1.1004	
Deutsche Mark	0.4492	.1_4514	
Swiss Franc	0.5294	0.1520	
French Franc	0.1309	V.12.	
Japanese Yen*	0.7097	0.7150	
Dutch Guilder	0.4010	0.4030	
Swedish Krona	*****	210444	
Itelian Liro*	0.0438	0.0440	
Belgian Franc	*****	24/***	

Other Currencies	Pr. Dag	Date: 22 11.199		
Currency 2.	Bid	Offer		
22 rentO internes	1.8350	. 1.8450		
Lebanese Lira	0.041225	0.042425		
Saudi Riyal	0.1550	0.1866		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3650		
Qatari Riyal	J.1906	0.1918		
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150		
Omani Riyal	1.7940	1.8150		
UAE Dirbans	0.1895	0.1904		
Greek Drachma*	0.2735	0.3115		
Cypriot Pound	1.3950	1,4940		

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Moody's: Japanese lifetime employment may weaken corporate credit standing

TOKYO (AFP) — The lifetime employment system may cost Japan its credit standing as it would undermine the ability to maintain international competitiveness. Moody's Investors Service Inc. warned.

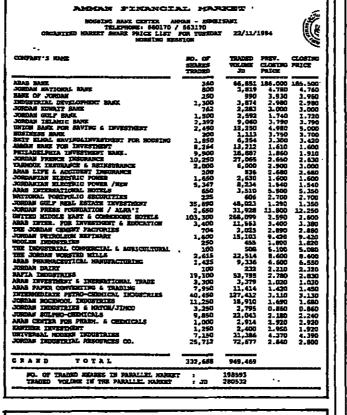
The report, titled "Lifetime Employment and its Credit Implications for Japanese Corporations," was written by Moody's Japan KK., a Japanese unit of the U.S. credit rating agency.

Lifetime employment is prevalent among the top 300to-400 companies in Japan. and the determination of these companies to keep workers employed has "often distorted their capital alloca-tions decisions," and also "forced them to engage in excess competition." Moody's said in a statement released Monday.

The companies' personnel management strategies therefore continue to have a negative impact on their interna-

tional competitiveness, it said. Moody's noted that several recently emerged factors now threaten the viability of the system, such as the rapid expansion of Asian manufacturers, the "hollowing out" of the Japanese domestic industrial base, and the overexpansion of operations that took place during the "bub-

ble years."
"Moody's believes many Japanese companies can no longer protect their employees by guaranteeing their employment and earnings, but "past examples indicate that swift labour adjustments are not likely unless companies experience prolonged periods of operation losses, the statement said.



LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

Canadian dollar

Deutschemarks

Dutch guilders

Swiss francs

Belgian francs

French francs

Italian lire

Japanese yen

Danish crowns

Swedish crowns

Norwegian crowns

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3702.12 1.5522/32 1.7396:06 1.3150/60 31.92/96 5.3260/10 1595.8/6.8 7.3475/75 6.7920/70 6.0710/60 \$1,5694/04 One sterling One ounce of gold \$383.50/383.90

Daily Business Beat

The following is a new column summarising financial and economic news that appeared a day earlier in Jordan's Arabic dailies. The news is compiled by our economic editor Samir Shafiq Ghawi.

** Jordan has bought 50,000 tonnes of wheat from the United States under an export support programme. Delivery of the wheat, bought at \$170 per tonnel including insurance and transportation, will be around mid-December (Sawt Al Shaab).

** A brokerage company at the Amman Financial Market has borrowed about JD4 million, or eight times its capital of JD250,000, from two banks. One of the banks and its affiliated companies have a large stake in the capital of the brokerage company. Financial sources said the brokerage firm is seeking new loans to make massive purchases of shares (Sawt Al Shaab).

** Private sector investors are seriously considering setting up a free zone in Irbid or in the areas near the Jordan River Bridge, which was opened on Nov. 10. Justification for the scheme stems from the proximity between Haifa port and Irbid. The new role for Aqaba to become the main port for Jordan and Israel for sea transport mainly to Central and East Asia was an added influence that weighed on the investors to look north and focus on Irbid (Al

* Israeli visitors were allowed to bring some fruits as "gifts" but, according to an official at the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, the amount was limited and not commercial. He stressed that Jordan will not import at present and for the next three months any foodstuffs noting: "There is not until now any agreement to regulate trade exchange with Israel." (Ad-Dustour).

** An official at the Ministry of Public Works said that the Zara-Ghor Haditheh road will be opened for traffic in mid-January. The 31.5-kilometre road cost JD11.5 million (Sawt Al Shaab).

**The number of returned cheques during the January-September period was 308,400 worth JD265.9 million which represents 3.57 per cent of the total amount of cheques presented for clearing. The total number of cheques cleared among local banks was 682,602 amounting to JD7,439.2 million during the same period (Al Ra'i).

* Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi visited the battery factory in Marka and reviewed its problems which led to the closure of parts of the factory and the layoff of some workers. The minister also visited the Pepsi-Cola factory where he was briefed about the reasons to lay off some workers as a result of lower production during the winter season (Al Ra'i). ** Ministry of Supply inspectors have recorded a total of 1,119 violations during last month in all governorates. The ministry has referred all violators to the specialised courts (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ The Ministry of Supply has fixed (new) prices for second grade tissue paper and diapers and some types of meat imported from Germany (Al Ra'i). ** A group of investors, banks and companies are finalising arrangements to launch a JD20 million company to invest in all economic sectors. Nine banks and financial companies will have JD4.250 million equity in the company, which will be known as The Arab Investors Company. Heading the founding committee is Housing Bank General Manager Zuhair Khoury (Al Aswaq).

* Flower production is expanding and many growers are complaining of unfair competition. The Kingdom's imports of flowers were until recently about JD20 million a year.

* Due to a typographical error, the date of establishment of the Amman Chamber of Commerce was given as 1993. The correct date should have read

Afternoon daily Akher Khabar to be liquidated

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The company that published Jordan's first evening newspaper, Akher Khaber, will be liquidated but with no losses to any of the shareholders, according to a decision taken by its board of directors in coordination with the comptroller of companies.

While no party directly involved in the affair would confirm it, differences between the board of directors and the editorial staff headed by Basem Sakkijha were said to have led to the decision to liquidate The Akher Khaber for Media Limited. -

Suggestions that financial troubles were behind the liquidation move were rejected outright by sources close to the company.

"Every stockholder will be repaid in full," said one source. "Not only that they would also get a share of the profits that the company made since it started operations." No detail was available on the profits of the JD1.7 million company.

The liquidation process is expected to be completed in a matter of weeks since there is no financial wrangle involved, according to the source. "It is going to be a quick process, and shareholders could get paid after one week," added the source, who did not want to be identified.

The company was formally set up early this year under an arrangement worked out among a local bank, businessmen and the editorial staff several months after Akher Khaber, a 32-page colour tabloid, hit the streets in October 1993 under a license secured by Mr. Sakkijha. The last issue of the news-

paper, which used to appear around midnoon everyday except Fridays, was pub-lished on Oct. 1. Since then, the board of directors was trying to find a formula to solve the "crisis," said the source.

Details of the "crisis" were not clear, but it appeared that the editorial staff and the board of directors, headed by Dr. Asad Abdul Rahman, differed on editorial policy and the material that appeared in the paper and hence unable to work together.

Dr. Abdul Rahman was not immediately available for comment. Mr. Sakkijha reached over the phone by the Jordan Times, would only say that "there were differences and that he intended to set up a "private company" to re-sume publication of Akher Khaber.

At its peak, Akher Khaber

used to employ about 30 editorial staff, including reporters, and another 40 involved in the technical side of operations and distribution of the paper, which used to be printed at the Jordan Press Foundation, which publishes Al Ra'i and the Jordan

The paper started off with printing about 20,000 copies every day before bringing it down about 15,000 copies priced at 100 fils each.

According to the sources. the Amman Bank for Investments was the largest stockholder in the company.

The sources said some of the stockholders who had furnished guarantees on behalf of Mr. Sakkijha to the bank, which had initially extended a large loan to him to start the paper, had filed a lawsuit and that Mr. Sakkijha himself was planning a coun-

Arab Gulf states warn Europe on chemical sale curbs

ion (EU) they petroche would respond to any curb on sales from their booming petrochemical industry. But a regional think tank said exports were headed only one way — up

The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) Abdullah Al Quwaiz said new trade rules due to come into force

NEW MINUE

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The Classiest Of

DOHA (R) - Arab Gulf in the EU would restrict sales states Monday warned the from the Gulf's dominated

> Mr. Quwaiz referred to the January 1995 introduction of a new Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) under the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) signed earlier this year.

> "We believe the proposéd changes for the GSP will lead to restriction of trade and put up new barriers against our exports to the European Union, with a view to ensuring the survival of old plants of high production cost." said Mr. Quwaiz. GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs.

He spoke at a petrochemical conference in Oatar. The GCC also includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Exports are an especially important issue for GCC states since they account for 80 per cent of production compared to a world average for producer countries of 25 per cent. Gulf states account for about five per cent of world output.









Sweiflyeh

Jabal Al Webdeh/Tel.637101/637102

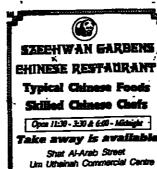






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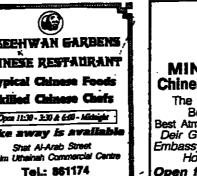
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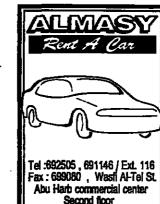
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1st Division Basketball Championship

Ahli clash with Orthodoxi today in 1st round final

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - It's time again for the most awaited basketball match of the Kingdom, when all-time rivals Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi clash Wednesday in the first-round final of the First Division Basketball Championship.

Both teams enter the match with an unbeaten record after winning their five matches. However Al Ahli lead the standings on score difference.

This year's match is reminiscent of the top two teams' matches throughout the eighties, when Al Orthodoxi would play the match almost certain of winning the title. However, it is now Al Ahli who are confident of retaining their third consecutive crown.

Al Orthodoxi are now in a transitional phase where many experienced older players have quit the team while their younger lineup was not prepared to take

The former champions who had an undisputed reign on the country's basketball scene from 1976-1989, mainly depended on the individual efforts of top players especially Murad Barakat. Therefore the team lost ground to their all time rivals as Barakat lost form during the past three years and quit the team last

Barakat is now coaching the team, hoping that his players will at least firmly hold on to runner up position until they are ready to reclaim their crown. They last won the title in 1991.

On the other hand, the Ahli camp have had the most consistent and serious training season with over 18 top players taking part. These include all time stars



Al Ahli's Naser Bushnaq goes for a layup while teammate Walid Badran (right) and Orthodoxi's Jihad Saliba (left) look on during the 1993 championship final (File photo)

Marwan Ma'touq, Samir Murqus, Yousef Zaghloul, Naser Bushnaq an abundant lineup of younger, energetic players like Mar-wan Al Sa'eedi, Walid Badran, Mohammad and Taimour Shamali, Zeid Alkhas, and many others who are determined to hold on to the championship for

years to come. The team had impressive results against most opponents and were held under the 100-point mark only against Al Jazireh and Al Jalil. They are led by their Russian coach Alexander Sasha who was instrumental in altering their style that

enabled them to clinch the title away from Al Orthodoxi in 1990 and win it again in 1992 and 1993. Last year Al Ahli beat Al Orthodoxi 75-69 and 70-60 to clinch the title.

Despite being undermanned for the first time in a decade, Al Orthodoxi demonstrated that they are still a formidable force backed by the presence of Hilal Barakat, the team's undisputed star who is carrying the whole burden of scoring for his team in the absence of his elder brother. Hilal scored 59 points in Al Orthodoxi's 92-75 over Al Jazireh.

Al Jazireh's plans for second place this season were upset by their 17-point loss to Al Orthodoxi. They will thus have to be content with third place for the third consecutive year, un-less they defeat Al Ortho-

second round! Al Jazireh have one match left against Homent-

doxi by over 17 points in the

men Wednesday. Al Jalil, a fourth place finisher for the past two years, seem set to stay in their same position for another year after losing 73-69 to Al Jazireh. They might however take third place if they beat Al Jazireh

with over 4 points in the second round.

Despite their defeats, Al Jalil have appeared to be a highly competitive team denying the titleholders their first win under the 100point mark when Al Ahli won 96-69, the first half

As the top four teams are almost certain to retain their standings, the same cannot be said of the other three teams, whose ambition seems to be limited to

keeping their place among the prestigious group. In an effort to upgrade the standard of competi-

tion, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) last year promoted only one team from the second division instead of the usual two. making the number of competing teams seven for the first time. However, this year two teams will be relegated, and only one will be promoted, reducing the number to six as of next

This year, Homentmen became the first of the two teams to be relegated after failing to score the necessary number of at least three wins.

Homentmen will have to defeat Al Hussein with a score difference of over 14 points and Al Watani with 26 in order to avoid relegation, a difficult feat to

Meanwhile Al Hussein pushed Al Watani to the brink of relegation after scoring vital 79-76 win in Irbid Sunday.

Al Watani, a fifth place finisher after defeating Al Hussein in double overtime last year, had hoped to advance their standing after a good training programme with their new Iraqi coach Mohammad Al Najjar, who was previously at Al Orthodoxi.

The fact that the team now finds itself fighting for their place in the division rather than achieve an advanced standing has undoubtedly upset the players and fans especially after their loss to Al Hussein.

Al Watani's only win was over Homentmen. They will have to repeat that result and overcome Al Hussein with over 4 points in the second round to avoid relegation.
The second round of the

competition begins Nov. 26 and ends with the second Ahli-Orthodoxi final Dec.

SPORTS IN BREIF

Maradona wants to play again

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Diego Maradona Monday changed his mind and now says he wants to play professional soccer again. "I would like to play for Boca (Jrs) in September," when his 15-month suspension for failing a drugs test at the World Cup expires, he told a load radio station. His interviewer then gave the microphone again to Boca Jrs vice-president Carlos Heller, whom he had just interviewed. Having Maradona in the team "is a dream all of us have," a surprised Heller said. "Any time," was Maradona's quick response. "Just give me a ring and we get together." BUENOS AIRES (R) — Diego Maradona Monday get together.

Wimbledon profits boost

LONDON (AFP) - Wimbledon, the world's most famous tennis tournament, made a record profit of 28 million pounds this year, a staggering 70 per cent increase on the previous record of £16.4 million set in 1993. This is a major boost for British tennis, as all of the surplus is given to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for reinvestment in the game in British Some of the money is intended to add game in Britain. Some of the money is intended to add more international tournaments to the domestic calender, while some will go towards extending the season beyond the traditional summer months. In addition, more experienced coaches will be employed to improve the standards of junior players, and elite training centres are being created round the country.

Schmeichel left behind

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Peter Schmeichel has lost his fight to play in Manchester United's crucial Champions' League contest with IFK Gothenburg Wednesday. The Danish goalkeeper, desperate to return to the side after being dropped in Barcelona could also miss United's next two domestic games. "We've had to leave him behind, unfortunately," said manager Alex Ferguson. "He hasn't recovered from his back injury and the doctor has now told him to rest for seven to 10 days." "With Roy Keane and Ryan Giggs also out, that's three foreigners or assimilated players that we're missing and it makes the selection simpler," he said.

Italy face Dutch test in volleyball final

TOKYO (AFP) — World champion Italy lived up to its pre-tournament promise by beating the United States in four sets Tuesday to gain a final match against the Netherlands. It will be a rematch of the world championship final, which the Italians took in four sets. Andrea Zorzi fired 26 winners out of 40 attempts to collect two points and 24 for side out leading the Italians to 2.1 points and 24 for side-out, leading the Italians to a 3-1 (15-11, 11-15, 15-11, 15-7) victory. The Americans, the bronze medallists in the world championship in Athens last month, led 11-7 in the third set after spliting the first two. but the Italians then took eight consecutive points to set up victory. "Our players were very tired and had many problems in service reception," said Italian Coach Julio Velasco. "The Americans attacked very fast and quick, so we needed to improve the timing for blocking. I think that made the difference." In the other semi-finals, the Netherlands used their height advantage and power to beat hosts Japan 3-0 (15-8, 15-12, 15-10).

Sampras, Edberg sign for pre-Open exhibition

MELBOURNE (AP) — Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Michael Stich all will play in an exhibition tennis tournament in Melbourne the week before the Australian Open. Tournament promoter Colini Street and Transfer Open. ter Colin Stubs said Tuesday that he also hopes to sign American Michael Chang and Cedric Pioline of France to complete the field for the eight-man Colonial Mutual Classic, which will be played at Kooyong from Jan. 11-14. The exhibition immediately precedes the Australian Open. which runs from Jan. 16-29 at the nearby National Tennis

Giants edge Oilers

HOUSTON (R) — David Treadwell kicked a 37-year field goal with two seconds left to lift the New York Giants to a 13-10 victory over the Houston Oilers Monday. Just before the game-winning kick, Houston's Al Del Greco kicked a 43-yard field goal with four minutes left in the fourth quarter to tie the game at 10-10. Treadwell had kicked a 26-yard field goal to give the Giants a 10-7 lead. The Giants (4-7) broke a seven-game losing streak in spoiling the NFL coaching debut of Jeff Fisher. Houston (1-10), which has the worst record in the league, lost for the seventh straight

Ex-champ threatens to kill manager

DETROIT (AFP) - Police hewre plan no charges against former world super-middleweight boxing champion James Toney, who stormed out of his mother's home with a gun Sunday vowing to kill his former manager. Toney was interviewed by police Monday after officers spent the night watching the homes of manager Jackie Kallen. "He said he had said some things, he was distraught and would just rather let it go," West Bloomfield Township police chief Ron Cronin said. "At this point the case is closed." Toney who lost a unanimous decision to Roy Jones in an International Boxing Federation (IBF) title fight Friday, told an area radio station Monday that he had been ill and overweight but had been pressured into fighting by Kallen.

India choose grass for Davis Cup clash

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India have chosen grass for their Davis Cup playoff match against Hong Kong in February. The Asia-Oceania Zone Group I playoff tie will take place February 3-5 on the grass courts of Calcutta's South Club. the All-India Tennis Association said Tuesday. Indian number one Leander Paes is expected to head the Indian squad. India tumbled out of the elite 16-team Davis Cup World Group in September when they were defeated 3-2 by South Africa in Jaipur.

U.S. Major League Soccer to begin in '96

Japanese model for success olus financial support from European and Asian investors has helped sustain United States dreams for an elite football league.

Organisers of Major League Soccer (MLS). FIFA's planned follow-up to this year's World Cup, have studied the Japanese League and found British and Japanese funding when support from U.S. firms was

lacking.
MLS is now scheduled to begin in 1996 with 10 teams — one year later and two clubs fewer than originally planned.

"From the beginning we have said it's more important to do it right than on a pre-arranged timetable." MLS president and World Cup chairman Alan Rothen-

berg said. "It would be wonderful to do it the way they did in Japan. They had a league and teams before they even have a World Cup. But, realistical-

PARIS (R) — Yesterday, all of AC Milan'sa troubles

they're here to stay — especially if they lose to Ajax

Amsterdam in the Cham-

pions' League Wednesday.

Manchester United could

well be singing the same re-frain if they fail to beat IFK

Gothenburg in Sweden on a

night of soccer action which

may leave the European Cup

bereft of its two pre-

Six months ago, such a scenario would have defied

Milan had won the Euro-

pean title with pride and

panache in an inspirational

4-0 annihilation of mighty

Barcelona, a club perform-

ance which soared to heights

not seen since Real Madrid's

glory days more than 30 years

ago.

Manchester United had

majestically completed a rare

English League and Cup dou-ble with a 4-0 thrashing of

Chelsea in the final and their

tomorrows seemd set for the

competition favourites.

Now it looks as though

seemed so far away.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A ly, it could never have happened that way in this coun- Thomases. They were going

> What could happen is a marketing blitz similar to the one which preceded the Japanese league. Souvenirs with the logos of such clubs as Hiroshima Sanfrecce, A-S Flugels and Nagoya Grampus Eight were widely available before teams ever played.

> "One of the things we did was look at the success of the J-League in Japan," Rothenberg said.
> "Long before there was a

game played, there was product on the shelves. With the get things into people's hands."

MLS hopes to own every franchise and have financial backers on a league level. But low support forced Rothenberg into a more common team-owner format for at least half of the league.

"It's nice to say what you could have done and should have done," Rothenberg

scarcely been better and de-

and their 4-0 reverse against

Barcelona three weeks ago

"We had a lot of Doubting to wait and see if the World

Cup was successful or not."
"If you think in that environment we could have raised enough money to put out a pro league, you're crazy. We had to silence the critics first." As a result, teams for the

most likely successful U.S. cities — New Jersey, Los Angeles and Washington have been sold to owner-

The team in the U.S. capital will be managed by a division of the Sponsorship Group, a British-based sports marketing and television production business.

"Our company put a great deal of money at risk believ-ing the U.S. market was ready to embrace soccer, said Kevin Payne, general manager for the API-owned "That turned out to be a very prudent investment. We're convinced the U.S. is

Japanese investors have iso hought into MIS although Rothenberg would give no details about them.

"We have a group of companies from Japan, which (at their request) I can't give you the identity of until after the first of the year," Rothenberg said.

The Japanese group does not intend to operate a team, Rothenberg said, but he had no objections to such a plan. Japanese investors already own portions of baseball's Seattle Mariners and ice bockey's Tampa Bay Light-

"We've been more reactive than pro-active," Rothen-berg said. "When investors overseas have indicated an interest, we've been happy to work with them."

MLS plans teams in Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago, New Jersey, Boston, San Jose, Tampa and Columbus, Ohio and two other undetermined U.S. cities.

is our most important game

of the season, manager Alex Ferguson said. "On the back

of what was a disappointing

performance in Barcelona

we've got something to prove

culties are compounded by the thought that a draw is

unlikely to be enough as it

would leave the Swedes and

Barcelona needing only to tie

their final head-to-head to

guarantee the two qualifying

But the English club's diffi-

to ourselves.

Sabatini moves up in rankings Martina Navratilova, who

MIAMI (AFP) — Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini, coming off her first tournament crown since May of 1992, moved up two places to seventh in the final 1994 WTA world singles rankings released Monday.

Sabatini defeated Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, in New York Sunday at the \$3.5 million WTA Championships. but Davenport, a U.S. 18-year-old, moved up one position to sixth to remain ahead of Sabatini in the season points race.

Sabatini said after he triumph that reaching the world number one ranking remains her goal, and one she considers well within reach. "I do believe that, especially if I play the way I did this week, I believe that very

much," Sabatini said. "I'm in the right age to be there, where I have reached my peak. I think I have very good chances.' The top five ranked players

remained unchanged, with world number one Steffi Graf of Germany followed by Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez, Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic and France's Mary Pierce.

retired after the New York event, fell two positions to eighth, followed by Japan's miko Date and Natalia Zvereva of Belarus, who also fell two places from the pre-Steffi Graf (Germany) 354.45 points

2. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) 311.70 Conchita Martinez (Spain) 180.21 4. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) 164.09 Mary Pierce (France)

6. Lindsay Davenport (USA) 141.72 Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 138.15 8. Martina Navratilova (USA) 134.60 9. Kimiko Date (Japan)

10. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus) 123.98 11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria) 94189 12. Anke Huber (Germany) 94.40 13. Iva Majoli (Croatia)

14. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA) 81.44 15. Brenda Schuitz (Netherlands) 76.95.

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Indian celebration

The Indian community in Jordan celebrates Guru Nanak Jayanti on Friday, Nov. 25, at the premises of the Embassy of India. All Indian nationals and spouses are welcome to the 12 noon to 2 p.m. event, which will include a "langur."

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

46 \$\times 1095 \cdot 10752 \times AK762\$

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 \$\times Dbl 3 \$\times 7\$

What action do you take?

Q-2—As South, vulnerable, you hold: hold:

AQ92 7J AQ AK10742
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

Pass 4 7 What action do you take?

you hokk ♦72 ♥J10652 ♦K7 ♣J1097 The bidding has proceeded:
West North East So

1 2 Dbl 2 2

What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold;

Q. CA754 A72 4EQ1043
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East 1 2 2 What action do you take? Q.6-As South, vulnerable, you **‡**AQ106 ♥K1073 ♦K **+QJ82** The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 & Pass 1 & Pass

2 Pass 1 & Pass

2 Pass 1 & Pass What do you hid now?

\$82 °J8 ○J10 ◆KQJ10765 The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

What do you bid now?

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

conquest of Europe. dent they can keep their heads above water and join Suddently, neither is half the team it used to be. Aiax, who lead Group D, in Location: Shmeisani, Abu Sufyan Street, behind Marriott the last eight. Right back Christian

Milan have spluttered in the Italian League and are already way out of touch with the leaders. Their Champions' League form has

feat to Ajax would probably put paid to their chances of a place in the quarter-finals. Manchester United have returned to the top of the English Premier League but still lack the style and conviction they showed last season

Milan, Manchester United face moment of truth

indicated they may be short top European class. Neither is helped by a run of bad luck with injuries, a sign of the mounting pressure produced on top clubs by an ever-mushrooming soccer calendar.

Milan, who have to play in Trieste because they are ban-ned from using the San Siro Stadium since Salzburg keeper Otto Konard was struck by a bottle thrown from the crowd in October, face Ajax without Montenegrin forward Dejan Savicevic, hero of the Barcelona massacre in

Midfield motor Demetrio Albertini is also doubtful with a muscle injury sustained when playing for Italy

But Milan are still confi-

Panucci, who scored twice against AEK Athens earlier

their month, said: "When I and Paolo Maldini attack down the flanks, we always cause problems for opponents. Ajax are a side that play an open game and it ought to be even easier for us

to Sweden without Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, Welsh winger Ryan Giggs and Irish midfielder Roy Keane, all injured. Their absence leaves man-

Manchester United travel

ager Alex Ferguson without the usual problem of deciding which foreign players to leave out and injuries to England's Lee Sharpe and Paul Parker have reduced his choice even further.

Fortunately, his French forward Eric Cantona is back after a four-match ban and he and on-form winger Andrei Anchelskis could yet prove to be match-winners.

'We're all aware that this

places in Group A.

Barcelona travel to Turkey to play Galatasaray and may leave out Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov and bring in Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi instead.

Two leading French strikers are back from injury on

opposing sides in the main match of Group B with Jean-Pierre Papin, who broke his hand in training last week, appearing for Bayern Munich against Paris St. Germain.

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Sports

Martina Navratilova

NEW YROK (R) - Re-

tired tennis greats Chris Evert and Martina Navrati-

lova will resume their

legendary rivalry as part of

a women's Legends Tour in

1995, tour sponsors Virgi-

nia Slims announced Mon-

In addition to Evert, who

retired in 1989, and Navra-

tilova, who played her last

tournament at the Virginia

Slims Championships last

week, 10 other former

champions will take part in

each stop on the senior

Women's professional

tennis pioneers Billie Jean

King, Rosie Casals, Virgi-

nia Wade, Evonne Goola-

gong, Bette Stove and Frankie Durr have already

keep tumbling for Turkey's

Olympics in Atlanta in

1996," he said after winning

his eighth world title before a

"Naim is undisputedly the

best," said International

Weightlifting Federation president Gottfried School.

but considering my recent

(groin) injury I would not have done so well today with-

out the support of the

Seemingly unbeatable, 64-

The 1.52-metre muscle-

man first put his country on

the world sporting map in

1988 by lifting three times his bodyweight to win Turkey's first Olympic gold in 20

He won again in 1992 and wants an unprecedented third

He is now accompanied by

an army of medal-winning

teammates, most notably the

even tinier Halil Mutlu,

another world record-

breaker, who won gold in the

54 kg on Friday. "People's attitude changed

when I came along." he told Reuters. "Turkish sportsmen

would go along as tourists to

international competitions.

Now they go believing that

they can win gold. There has

kish weightlifting," said Mut-lu, Bulgarian-born like

Suleymanoglu, who to Tur-key in 1989.

Suleymanoglu says drugs played no part in his stunning

"He is the architect of Tur-

been a revolution."

kg Suleymanogiu's only potential rival could be com-

"I believe I can do better,

men in his 12th year on the

world weightlifting scene.
"I will not quit until the

Istanbul Sunday.

crowd," he said.

title in 1996.

to play again

Thega Mandona Monda in was the wante to print for Robert 1970 and To strength supportation for failing In structure surjective to the country of the Country of the total of the country their gave the merciphone againg then government which had be standard in the team of a dream to sed Heller and Any time." amone that kind are a root and the

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test in volleyball final

Sorid champion italy used up to g ise he beating the United States E. is gain a finn mutch against the be a remarch or the world than the Italians took in tour sets Andra ex cut of 40 attempts to collect the beent, brachne the Italians to a li 15 4) victory Pa. Americans, the he would charmanathy in Athensis e third art after solding the first me. ook eight control to combinette re were serv tree and had man reception. See the second like scame affinekter ver vitest and quick, & e the fitnice to the lattick the In the other trieds the Nether in with the heat hogs el acivaittage

sign for pre-Open exhibition

Wantibledon of them fore Same

Melan Editory and Maria Mahall tion tenns tournaine . Madoume Australian Open To sense promo-Tuesday that he are to see hang and Cother De Conce to for the eight man . The Manual e played at Kinnene to in the 199 stratule preventes the American the tasut Freadmett kirker - Proposed heleft to bit the New York or 1982. e Henrylene Chiere Marie as Authorit Housen's Ville on coast

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anyway.'

The tiny man who lifts mountains says freak talent "You have to really believe

ISPANBUL (R) - Records and work really hard," he said. "I used to watch lifters on television when I was 10. I always wanted to be like them. Slowly I began to believe I could be. I once said

> one laughed. "I first remember lifting 25 kilos. I was 12. It was just an exhibition event, but I was ecstatic."

"I'll be first one day," every-

Born in 1967 to a poor ethnic Turkish family in former Communist Bulgaria, Suleymanogly burst onto the world scene at 16 as a featherweight and began destroying records before defecting to Turkey at the 1986 worlds in Melbourne.

Squashing speculation he could not win without Bulgarian training, he claimed gold and set three world records at the 1988 Seoul Olympics to become a hero in his adopted homeland.

"Bulgaria was the best place for weightlifting when I began," he said. "Sport was a Communist showcase. When we took home the golds people began to check their maps to find Bulgaria. But now it is collapsing around their ears. All their current stars are my loose."

generation. Then there is no

A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF

Virginia Slims announced the Legends

Tour one day after its 25-

years of sponsorship of the

regular women's tennis

tour came to an end. A

spokeswoman for Virginia

Slims said they had decided

go in a different direction.

taking advantage of the

nostalgia craze by reuniting

the early stars of the pro-

Each weekend will kick

off with a concert on the

Friday headlined by legen-

dary rhythm and blues star

Gladys Knight and country music star Barbara Man-

Dates have not been

finalised but the tour will

hit Tampa, Florida, Char-

lotte, North Carolina,

fessional circuit.

dreli.

Richmond, Virginia, Okla-homa City, Houston and Delray Beach, Florida.

will go to benefit the National AIDS Fund in

each community where the

wold be an opportunity to do this," Casals said. "I

think it will grow from six markets to a lot bigger and

could become like the PGA

Navratilova was asked

."The regular tour is

Li sets

world record

ISTANBUL (R) -- China's

Li Hongyun set a world snatch record in the

Championships Tuesday,

Li broke the record of

Asian Games in Hiroshima

Li went on to lift a world

record 125.5 in the jerk and

then improved the mark to

130.0 for a world record

The previous jerk record

of 125.0 was set by compat-riof Lei Li in December

1993 in Shilong. The pre-

vious total record, also held

He'll take it!

by Lei, stood at 227.5.

in October this year.

lifting 105.0 kg.

total 235 0

pretty businesslike," she

said. "But we're going to

why she had decided to sign

up for more tennis so soon

Senior Tour some day."

"I always throught there

tour stops.

after retiring.

have a blast."

Some of the proceeds

Navratilova, Evert to reunite in Legends Tour

signed up as have Hana Mandlikova, Wendy Turn-

bull and former number

one Tracy Austin, who at

31 is the baby of the group.

- Evert, who turns 40 next

month, will paly the 38-

year-old Navratilova in a

singles shoot-out competi-

tion each of the six

weekends of the tour. Evert said the players tak-ing part are "all the players

that gave me fits on the

Said the 51-year-old

King: "Even though we're

going to have a ton of fun,

we're still going to be com-

and I have been practicing

all week we're so nervous.

Tiny Turk looks to Atlanta

"In fact, Rosie (Casals)

petitive.

When he arrived, Turks: showered Suleymanoglu with flats, cars, money and adulation, but he has not always had it easy.

He campaigned for two years to win permission for his family to leave Bulgaria. He had to learn Turkish properly to continue his education, as well as train in an unfamiliar environment.

When I first came here I had to take exams for everything," he said. "I got into university in Bulgaria, but here I had to re-take the high school diploma. I had to rake up an interview I did in a Bulgarian paper that mentioned my university place to avoid more exams here. I re-took my driving test and failed the written part first go as my Turkish was bad."

Suleymanoglu has not been back to Bulgaria for security

"I have never regretted de-fecting," he said. "But I would like to go back and see the place where I was born. If you've lived 19 years in one place it is difficult to cut

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Aamodt, Tomba, Girardelli battle as Alpine skiing season begins

PARIS (AFP) — The new Alpine skiing World Cup season gets underway this weekend, with the talents of Alberto Tomba and Kjetil-Andre Aamodt overshadowed by a row

with the sport's ruling body. The row stems from the high-speed crash which killed

Ulrike Maier during a downhill race at Garmisch-Partenkirchen last January. The Australian's death sent shockwaves through the sport and led to legal action by her partner, who claimed that organisers had failed to ensure proper levels of safety. Now the ruling International Ski Federation is insisting that skiers sign a document absolving the FIS of responsi-

bility for injury or death, before they are given an international ski licence.

But the move has drawn a mixed response from national federations - with the French accepting, the Italians refusing and the others demanding more time.

FIS president Marc Hodler said: "The text has been approved by the (FIS) council and there is no question of us going back on it. If the skiers refuse to sign, they will not be allowed to compete in FIS events.

"But at the same time, they must understand that it's a dangerous sport and that the organisers cannot be held responsible for an accident if they themselves have done nothing wrong.'

However, the Italian federation which is hosting the opening men's events at sestriere this weekend, said last week it had not asked its athletes to sign such a disclaimer.

It also called on the FIS to take a fresh look at the issue. Assuming that the differences are settled, and that the World Cup is not suddenly placed in jeopardy, the battle between Aamodt, Tomba and Marc Girardelli should take its rightful pride of place.

Aamodt must be favoured to defend his overall World Cup title, his bitter-sweet performance at the Lillehammer Olympics proving that he is clearly the best all-round skier at the moment. The Norwegian faield to win a gold medal before his

home crowd, but silver in the downhill and combined, plus a bronze in the super-giant slalom showed he was undoubtedly the man to beat. Tomba "La Bomba" who had only a slalom silver to

show for his Olympics, remains the most charismatic man on and off the piste. His undeniable ski talents, combined with a playboy image, ensure he remains a crowd favourite. However, so long as the Italian continues to avoid the speed events - downhill and Super-G - he represents only a limited threat in the race for the overall title. That he managed to finish third last season is some testament to his domination of the slalom World Cup.

He gets a chance to demonstrate those skills at Sestriere Sunday evening, when the Italian resort hosts a floodlit version of the slalom race which Tomba won last season.

Girardelli, 31, who just edged Aamout for the 1993 crown, totting up 1.347, will definitely be back to avenge his defeat earlier this year. The Austrian-born veteran, w' kis for Luxembourg, celebrates his 15th season on the World Cup circuit.

If the sport's leading trio take most of the limelight, the rest could be shared out among another threesome -Slovenian Jure Kosir, American Olympic hero Tommy Moe and Austria's Gunther Mader. Kosir is fast-emerging as a slalom racer, finishing third at Lillehammer and third in the slalom World Cup last

season, while speed-merchant Moe is out to prove that his Olympic downhill title and super-G silver were no fluke. Both in their early 20s, the pair are part of the new wave in the sport. Mader, 30, and fourth in overall standings for the past

two years, is a proven race winner with no fewer than 10 World Cup titles in the different disciplines. However, he starts the season with Achilles tendon trouble. The women's World Cup, which opens at Park City.

Utah this weekend, looks set be another duel between Switzerland's Vreni Schneider and Swede Pernilla Wiberg - with German Katja Seizinger in the wings. Schneider took the slalom events by storm last season,

winning eight of the 10 World Cup races and the Olympic title in Lillehammer. More recently, she has been grounded by a knee

operation which prevented her from training for four weeks and which has made its presence felt during giant slalom runs in Keystone, Colorado. Wiberg is aiming for the overall title among others -

and claims she bears no mental scars from a bad fall last season at Vail, Colorado. "It would be nice to win a World Cup gold medal in

slalom." she said. "I don't have one. And no Swede has won a World Cup medal in the speed events — that's why it would be extra fun with a World Cup medal in the Super-G or downhill,"

Sochi hopes to stage 2002 Winter Games

MOSCOW (R) — Residents of Russia's Black Sea-resort of Sochi have backed plans to stage the 2002 Winter Olympics and local officials said Monday the city's chances

were good. "We have the best snow in the world and beautiful scenery," Sochi information officer Igor Sisov told Reuters by

telephone.
"We are sure that we will be on the short-list this January, and if we are not first when the final decision is

women's 64 kg category at the World Weightlifting made in June we will make an immediate bid for the Olympics in 2006." 103.5 set by Lei Li in the He said 75 per cent of participants in a weekend re-

ferendum on whether Sochi should host the Games had voted "yes. Turnout was 25.68 per cent, just above the 25 per cent threshold needed for the vote to be valid. Sochi, which straggles for

miles along Russia's Black Sea coast, is better known as a summer playground for generations of the Soviet elite than as a winter sports resort. It is one of nine cities resort to stage the Games.

- Lunch Invitation Turino

- Confront him at 1881110

which were last held in the Norwegian resort of Lillehammer earlier this year. The next Games are in Nagano, Japan, in 1998.

Sochi's own mountain resort at Krasnaya Polyana currently boasts one small hotel and a few rope tow ski lifts but Sisov said Russian and foreign firms were lining up to build the facilities needed for the world's biggest winter sports event.

'We needed to build six -

big sporting facilities and, if we are given the go-ahead, they will be built well in advance," he said. already have a queue of firms waiting to participate."

The city had hotel accommodation for 100,000 visitors, more than enough for the event, he added.

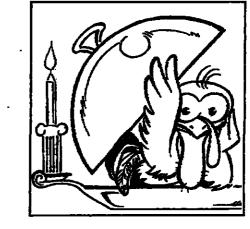
Sochi's hotels include guest houses and sanatoria which were built for groups and individuals in Soviet days.

One western style luxury hotel was opened earlier this "There have been sad ex-

periences for the International Olympic Committee in the past when local residents opposed holding the Games in their cities," Sisov said. "The referendum shows

that this will not be the case here. The Russian Olympic Committee is sending a letter to Lausanne with the results of our referendum."

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Akram Abui Ragheb

Daily at 10 a.m. Sleepless in Seattle Al Salam Ya Salam Qirbeh Makhzouqa seven Oscars Shows: 12:50, 3:50, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Dally at 8:30 p.m. "Punctured Bag" IN THE NAME OF Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The Arabic Movie We will announce the re-Saturday & Sunday is THE FATHER SPEED theatre's holiday, The Immigrant sumption of the play in Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

It's distracting Ritzy but fun

UAE urges dialogue among Gulf states to end disputes

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Abu Dhabi's crown prince, in talks with the Russian prime minister on Tuesday, called for dialogue among Gulf states to guarantee stability in the oil-rich region, the official WAM news agency re-

ported.
Sheikh Khalifa Ben Zayed
'Al Nahayan and Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin also discussed the UAE's dispute with Iran over three strategic Gulf islands. The crown prince called for

"a new formula of coexistence among regional states and establishment of understanding and a dialogue to boost confidence on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation and respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of WAM said. each country,'

He did not refer outright to Iran and Iraq but the UAE has been locked in an island dispute with Tehran for many years. Iraq had also long claimed neighbouring Kuwait until it recognised the emi-

rate two weeks ago. Russia played a key role in securing that recognition but the United Nations has stressed Iraq's implementation of other Gulf war resolutions as a pre-requisite for lifting its crippling sanctions on Bagh-

Mr. Chernomyrdin, accompanied by a large delegation, reassured the UAE leaders that Russia's mediation was intended to ensure "Iraq will implement all U.N. resolutions before the U.N. sanctions are removed," according to WAM.

At talks later with UAE Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sultan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan, the Russian premier was briefed on the dispute with Iran over the tiny islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

WAM said Sheikh Sultan informed the Russians of the UAE's decision to seek international arbitration on the dispute after the collapse of direct negotiations with Iran in Abu Dhabi in 1992.

"The UAE presented its position to go the International Court of Justice to recover its full sovereignty on the islands through peaceful means. The Russian stand was very positive," the agency said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin is the first Russian head of government to visit the Gulf and his trip has already resulted in the signing of economic and investment agreements with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Russia already has an economic pact with the UAE but they are expected to sign an investment accord soon.

The prime minister is also due to visit Oman, another member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). whose trade with Russia stood at around \$350 million

During the talks in the UAE, Mr. Chernomyrdin explained economic reforms and new investment opportunities in Russia, officials said.

The Russians have in recent months intensified their efforts to rebuild their influence in the Middle East that had waned with the collapse of communism and Mr. Chernomyrdin's tour was clearly designed to bolster Moscow standing in a region where it Gulf monarchies.

Mr. Chernomyrdin flew here from Kuwait, where he signed five agreements in various fields with the emirate which alone among the Gulf monarchies had relations with Moscow during the cold

Leading a high-level delegation of economic, energy and military officials, he started his tour in Saudi Arabia, where he also signed cooperation agreements and sought joint investment pro-

ated by Western firms, but Kuwait bought Russian BMP-3 armoured vehicles and multiple rocket launcher systems in August and is considering buying more. Diplomats listed the Sukhoi-27 and MiG-29 jet

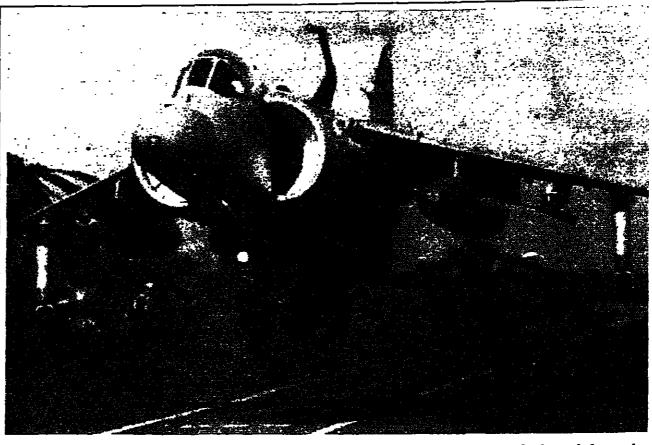
The Gulf market is domin-

warplanes and anti-aircraft missiles as items that Russia might try to sell the UAE and other Gulf states. The relative cheapness of

Russian arms may be an incentive as Gulf states look around for ways to cut govemment spending. In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Cher-

nomyrdin discussed investment and Russian debts. although the kingdom's finance minister denied on Monday Russian media reports that Saudi Arabia had agreed to reschedule debts run up by the Soviet Union.

Etisalat, the UAE's telecommunications company, wants to have its own satellite in orbit in the next three to four years, and a feasibility study is due to be finished



SEA HARRIER FA2: A recent file photo showing a British Sea Harrier FA2 fighter plane aboard EMS Invincible, currently operating over Bosuia. The Royal Navy Sea

Harrier jump-jets narrowly escaped unharmed after coming under attack from Serb surface-to-air missiles Tuesday (See story on page 5) (AFP photo)

Menem says Israel Kuwait Islamists slam must return Golan

Mr. Assad, who held talks

with Mr. Menem earlier

Monday, reiterated that Syria

was keen to achieve a peace

settlement in the Middle East

and blamed Israel for the lack

of progress in the negotia-

"A just and comprehensive

peace is our strategic option

and if the peace process has

not yet led to the hoped-for

results, it's because of the

obstacles placed by Israel in the way of this process and its

running away from a commit-

ment to the rules upon which the peace process is estab

lished," Mr. Assad declared

optimum level of economic

and social development are

combined with our struggle

for achieving a just and com-

"Our efforts to achieve the

NEWS IN BRIEF

at the banquet.

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Carlos Menem of Argentina says that Israel must surrender the occupied Golan Heights if there is to be a durable peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Menem, whose parents were Syrian Muslims, arrived in Damascus Monday on a three-day visit during which he will seek to persuade Syria to resume negotiations with Israel that have been stalled since February.

"The restoration of Israelioccupied Syrian land is a necessary step for the establishment of peace in the region and for the establishment of coexistence so that the countries of the region might live within internationally-recognised borders," Mr. Menem said

Monday night. Speaking at a banquet held in his honour by President Hafez Al Assad, Mr. Menem said: "The implementation of the relevant U.N. resolutions lishment of just, comprehensive and durable peace in this

part of the world."

peace process with Israel KUWAIT (AP) — Islamic

fundamentalist members of ress until the Jewish state parliament Tuesday demakes a commitment for a nounced the peace process complete withdrawal from with Israel as well as the the Golan Heights. Kuwaiti government for sup-Israel was offered a phased porting it before consulting and partial withdrawal over with the representatives of several years. The Syrians the people. have rejected that.

"It is a shameful, disgraceful and submissive crime." said Shiite Deputy Adnan Abdul Samad. "How can we forget the rivers of blood of our martyrs?"

He asserted that all agreements Arab countries have signed with Israel were agreements with ruling regimes ... not with the people. most of whom are oppressed and cannot express their real

Khaled Al Adwa, an Islamic lawmaker and a mosque preacher, said the time had come for the government to consult with the legislature before announcing its position on such issues.

Islamic fundamentalists and their supporters hold 19 of the 50 seats in parliament. which was elected in October 1992

Mr. Adwa criticised In-

formation Minister Sheikh Saud Al Sabah for saying last week that it was only a matter of time before the Arabs ended their boycott of the Jewish state.

Sheikh Saud had said "the existence of Israel is a fact" and that Arab countries should make a decision about lifting the boycott "before one is imposed on them."

Kuwait and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman - have dropped the "secondary" boycott, under which countries blacklisted goods sold by non-Israeli companies if those companies had activities in Israel.

But the six have said they will continue to prohibit direct dealings with Israel until it has resolved its disputes with its immediate Arab neighbours.

Mr. Abdul Samad said Israeli goods "have started to invade markets in Kuwait." and Kuwaiti merchants bad workers removing "made in Israel" tags from them in special storage areas.

Fleiss attorneys try to prove entrapment

LOS ANGELES (R) — Lawyers for Heidi Fleiss sought Monday to prove that he so-called "Hollywood Madam" was entrapped by a police "sting" operation into providing four alleged prosi-tutes for officers posing as Japanese businessmen. Ms. Fleiss, who is alleged to have run a high-priced prostitution ring catering to the rich and famous, had pleaded not guilty to four charges of pandering — recruiting women as prostitutes — and one count of possessing cocaine. She faces up to 11 in prison if convicted, Detective Sammy Lee, questioned by Defence Attorney Anthony Brooklier, said he had asked one of the women sent by Ms. Flairs the women sent by Ms. Fleiss to a Beverly Hills hotel to provide cocaine and sex. As he started his defence of Ms. Fleiss. 28, the daughter of a wealthy Beverly Hills doctor, Mr. Brooklier played a lengthy videotape showing Mr. Lee with one of the women and then all four women with the undercover officers. Portions had been shown to the jury by the prosecution but Mr. Brooklier said he wanted the panel to watch the whole tape so it could see how his client had been entrapped. The jury earlier in the case heard from 23-year-old Samantha Burdette, who admitted she was a prostitute and said her prices for a "date" varied from \$1,000 to \$10,000, and Kimberly Burch, who said she had never been paid for sex before. Both women, who were granted immunity from prosecution in return for their testimony, said they had been paid \$1,500 by the undercover officers. Other officers burst into the hotel room and arrested them before any sex took place, they said.

Gymnast: I was forced to become pregnant

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Lest

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BONN (AFP) - One-time Russian gymnast Olga Kovalenko accused her former trainers here Monday of forcing her to become pregnant and then have an abortion as an alternative to taking performance-enhancing drugs. Kovalenko who took part in the 1968 Olympics, said in an interview on German television: "The doctors told us that the body of a pregnant woman produced more male hormones and could therefore become stronger." Kovalenko, 44. broke down as she revealed she became pregnant by her boyfriend and then had an abortion after ten weeks. She added she would not have been allowed to take part in the Games if she had refused.

British teenager in hoax lottery win claim

LONDON (R) - An unemployed teenager who claimed to have won a share of Britain's first National Lottery jackpot has admitted he played a hoax. newspaper reported Tuesday. The Today and Sun tabloids quoted Mark Wright, 18, from Liverpool in northern England, as saying he made the claim to publicise his concern about the lottery's effect on charities. "I am worried about the effects the lottery will have on donations to charity and also on jobs in the pools industry, said Wright. "I am glad I got my message across." Some of the lottery's proceeds are intended for charities but a number of organisations have expressed concern that some people will buy lottery tickets with money they would otherwise have given to charity.

Judge throws out paternity suit against Jackson

MODESTO, California (R) - A judge Monday threw out a lawsuit alleging pop superstar Michael Jackson was the father of a 10-yearold boy, and ordered the boy's mother to get special permission before filing any more paternity suits. Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Glenn Ritchey dismissed the suit, which sought \$20 million a year and a house, and issued a finding that Jackson is not the father of James Hall. Blood tests showing that another man is the true father would have made a trial pointless.

Clinton ready to seek approval for monitors in Golan

The American role in concluding an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement "is to do all we can to enhance the prospect" for achieving it and to avo'd making statements that eement," a senior Clinton administration official said Monday.

The official confirmed that President Clinton, publicly and privately, assured Israeli Prime Minister Rabin that he is prepared to seek congressional approval to send American troops to the Golan Heights should such a meve be necessary to facilitate a peace treaty between Damascus and Tel Aviv, U.S. military and civilian personnel have been playing a similar monitoring role in the Sinai Desert as part of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. -Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton covered a range of bilateral and Middle East peace issues in a Nov. 21 meeting that included 30 minutes of private talk. Among other things, they discussed expediting help to the embatiled Palestine Liberation Organisation as it attempts to make a success of its limited self-rule mandate in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, and U.S. efforts to enhance Israeli security, including a continued go-ahead for development of the Arrow antiballistic missile and export licenses for two super compu-

Mr. Clinton told questioners on the comments of Sena-

tor Jesse Helms opposing a U.S. presence in the Golan that it is premature to discuss the matter because neither side has made such a formal proposal. But in what many reporters took to be his fir-"raise questions about mest statement of support for whether we're prepared to the concept to date, the presipromote and support such an dent said he would be prered to make the case for a U.S. presence should that be

condition for peace. He cited approvingly the Sinai commitment, saying no American "begrudges that investment" in the Egyptian-Israeli peace accord flowing from the Camp David accords. When the new Republican majority organizes the Senate in January, Helms is slated to become chairman of the Foreign Relations

Committee. The official and Mr. Clinton's remarks in a photo opportunity were not directly addressed to Mr. Helms. "I think what he was getting at," the official said, "is that if there's a chance to go ahead and conclude an agreement" between Damascus and Tel Aviv. "the American role is to do all we can to enhance the prospect and the possibility of achieving such an agreement. Those in this country who are interested in seeing peace should be careful not to be making the kinds of statements that might raise questions about whether or not we're prepared to promote and support such an agreement.'

The official said the issue of possible use of U.S. troops in the Gaza "was not much of a topic" in the Clinton-Rabin

discussion "because this is an issue that depends on a much broader agreement being reached" between Israel and Syria. But Mr. Rabin told Mr. Clinton he has discussed the possibility, in the context of the Sinai precedent, when addressing U.S. audiences.

Pressed to say if Mr. Clinton assured Mr. Rabin "he would be prepared to make the case" for U.S. troops to Congress "if a peace treaty were to depend on disengagement on the Golan monitored by a force that would include U.S. troops," the official replied, "yes."

The official said there had not been time to gauge the foreign reaction to another Helms statement — that the Middle East peace process is fraud. He said, as Mr. Clinton had suggested earlier, that the current process which has resulted in agreements with the PLO and with Jordan had begun under a Republican president as part of the Madrid Conference co-chaired by the United States and the then-Soviet Union. He said the response to statements such as Helms' is to stress Mr. Clinton's commitment to the peace pro-

"The peace process has always enjoyed strong bipartisan support," the official pointed out, "and we will reemphasise that and the president's commitment to pursue it to the point that finishes the iob. There will be no relaxation in terms of his own commitment and, there-

(Continued on page 3)

prehensive pece in the region, " Mr. Assad said. Syria insists that the peace

French TV film sparks protests

PARIS (AFP) - A row erupted Tuesday over a French television programme which retouched pictures of three Muslim youths, adding beards and moustaches in an apparent attempt to make them look like Muslim extremists. The programme's producer admitted the pictures were clearly manipulated and apologised, but the three men involved have made a formal protest and are demanding compensation, saying they do not even practise Isalm. The weekly programme "Marche du Siecle' shown on the state-run France-3 TV channel, originally used pictures of the three men last year in a report on inner-city problems. Then last month the programme ran a report on French Muslims — and used the same picture to illustrate a section on their attitudes to Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The new picture, published by the daily Le Parisien alongside the orginal Tuesday, was, however, retouched with beards and moustaches added, to make them look like extremists. "We looked just like Islamic militants. I was disgusted," Hamid, one of the three men from the northern city of Lille, told the newspaper. "I have family in Algeria... people there have satellite dishes and a lot of them watched this programme — I don't know what could happen... we don't have any link whatever with the FIS," said another, Rahlem.

Floods leave 30 dead in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (AFP) - Floods have claimed at least 30 lives over the past 24 hours in floods in Djibouti where a big rescue operation spearheaded by French forces is underway, local officials and French military sources said Tuesday. The toll could go higher as several people are still unaccounted for and more rain was forecast for Tuesday. Twenty people drowned in the worse-affected areas of Ali-Sabieh and Dikhil in the south of the small Horn of Africa country and another 10 people were swept away in the capital by the swollen Ambouli River, the Interior Ministry said. A large number of Somali refugees are housed in camps in southern Djibouti. French military sources said French troops, who are based in this former French colony, had rescued nearly 600 people stranded by the rising waters. About 100 were winched to safety by helicopter while 470 others were picked up either by helicopters which found a dry place to land or by dinghy.

Police guard killed in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) - The body of a police guard who had been shot death was found Tuesday floating in a canal near the southern Egyptian town of Mallawi, the Interior Ministry said. It was not immediately clear if the guard, Mikhail Farag, was killed by Islamic extremists. Farag, a Coptic Christian, was the security man found dead in the area this week. On Sunday, the body of a policeman was found with a fatal gunshot wound. The area is a stronghold for Muslim fundamentalist groups that have been blamed for a 21/2 year campaign of violence aimed at overthrowing Egypt's secular government and replacing it with Islamic rule. Tuesday's death raised to 12 the number of people killed in the Mallawi area since the start of this month. Mallawi is 260 kilometres south of Cairo.

Iran repatriates 2,000 Kurdish refugees

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 2,000 Iraqi Kurds have left here for home since September, under a voluntary repatria-tion program arranged by Iran and the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the agency said here Tuesday. The programme, aimed at returning most of the up to 60,000 Iraqi Kurds currently living in Iran, was due to have been launched last spring, but it was delayed due to the fighting among rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq. The repatriation process, however, will come to a halt until next spring as the movement of refugees would be difficult during the winter in mountainous regions of Iraqi Kurdistan, according to UNHCR.

Turkey receives \$120m in U.S. grants

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and the United States signed an agreement on Tuesday for the transfer of a \$120 million grant to ease Ankara's losses incurred by four years of U.N. trade sanctions on Baghdad. "The economic support fund grant is a part of the almost \$3 billion in assistance which the U.S. has provided to Turkey since 1990 when U.N. sanctions on Iraq were put in place," U.S. Ambassador Richard Barkley told the signing ceremony. Mr. Barkley said the grant would help Turkey offset its losses from the sanctions on Iraq, Turkey's second biggest trading partner and top oil supplier before the Gulf crisis broke out in August 1990. Turkey backed the U.S.-led coalition forces against Iraq, shutting a major Iraqi export oil pipeline and allowing Western military forces to use bases on its territory to hit Iraq. Turkey, which supports the easing of sanctions on Iraq, claims its losses through the bans have exceeded \$20 billion.

UAE court confirms jail term for 6 Indians

DUBAI (R) - Six Indian nationals who staged . play in which an's were depicted eating the bodies of the prophet Mohammad and Jesus Christ have lost an appeal of their blasphemy conviction in a United Arab Emirates (UAE) court. The English-language Khaleej Times said on Tuesday the appeals court in the emirate of Sharjah confirmed the sentence of the six defendants to six years in jail each and ordered the destruction of a videotape of the controversial play. The UAE laws forbid anyone taking part in or supporting anything derogatory to religion. The six were among 11 Indian men convicted of blasphemy in 1992 by a court in Sharjah where the play was staged. They were later set free on appeal by the Sharjah appeals court in 1993 but have since been retired. The amateur play, called "Corpse-Eating Ants" and performed in the southern Indian Malayalam language, also depicted ants eating the body of Karl Marx, the father of communism. None of the six defendants were present "as they had apparently left the country after their passports were returned to them by court authorities," the newspaper added.

Turks charge German, free another over Kurds

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Turkish authorities have charged a German man with abetting Kurdish separatists but have released a German woman arrested with him, Anatolia news agency reported Tuesday. Andreas Landwehe, 32 was charged Monday night by the Istanbul state security court with "collaborating" with the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). Karen Braun, 28 was released on bail. The two Germans were detained on Nov. 12 at Kapikule on the Bulgarian border. A PKK activist to whom the two Germans allegedly gave a satellite telephone was also under arrest, officials said. Police said PKK propaganda in the form of video and audio cassettes destined ir PKK members in Germany had been found hidden in the Germans' car

Lebanon parade marks independence

BEIRUT (AP) - Dozens of tanks and armoured person-nel carriers paraded through central Beirut Tuesday in the shadow of civil war devastation to mark Lebanon's 51st anniversary of independence from France

President Elias Hrawi took the salute from a redshell-pocked high-rise buildings that once served as sniper nests for warring Muslims and Christians during the 1975-90 civil war.

"He was flanked by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. Army Commander General Emile Lahoud. wearing a blue naval admiral's uniform, saluted from a podium at the opposite side of the boulevard.

The columns of U.S.-made M-48 tanks and M-113 armoured personnel carriers rumbled across the mid-city museum boulevard, scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

The ceremonies began with

doves to symbolise the peace that has held since October 1990, despite periodic bomb-

ings and assassinations.

Most of the doves fluttered over the parade, but six sat in the middle of the parade route throughout the 75minute event unruffled by the roar of armour near.

Tokens units of the army's 12 brigades and six newly formed rapid intervention battalions marched past the review stands behind truckmounted 40-barrelled rocket launchers and howitzers.

Unlike other independence day parades since the end of the war, the four aging Haw-ker Hunter jet fighters that make up Lebanon's air force did not stage a flypast Tuesday. There was no explanatin for their absence.

On Monday, Mr. Hrawi said Lebanon was committed to peace talks with Israel, but reiterated that he would not sign a separate treaty before

Syria does. "We shall strive shoulder northern Israel if Israel withthe release of scores of white to shoulder with Syria to

reach a just and comprehensive peace based on land for peace," Mr. Hrawi said in a

nationally televised speech. He stressed that the Beirut government will accept nothing short of a complete Israeli withdrawal from a border enclave it occupies in South Lebanon.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been excluding Lebanon from his numerous Middle East shuttles to push forward the peace negotiations, since a breakthrough in the Syrian-Israeli talks would automatically lead to Lebanon's ac-

quiescence. Syria has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon as peacekeepers to prevent the civil war reigniting. Israel occupies 1,100

square kilometres of South Lebanon as a "security zone." Mr. Hrawi has said he was ready to send 30,000 of the army's 50,000 troops to the south to prevent any raids on